

# the Village Reporter

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

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

## Area News

### Winter Fun in Castle Rock Free Trolley Rides

Free Trolley Rides are available through December 26, (not including December 25) Monday through Tuesday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Trolley ride pick up and drop off in Castle Rock locations are the Encore garage entrance on South Street and Douglas County School District parking lot entrance on 6th Street.

### Carriage Rides

Carriage Rides are available at Festival Park through December 30 on Wednesday through Sunday (not including December 24). In person ticket sales are available at Philip S. Miller Library, Event Hall A, from 4:30 pm to 6 pm or online at <https://www.crgov.com/1968/Town-Trolley>

### New Year's Eve Celebrations in Downtown Castle Rock

The Town of Castle Rock offers a variety of ways to bring in the New Year. There will be live performances, New Year's Eve 2024 Countdown, and viewing of fireworks shows. Additional information on Castle Rock's New Year festivities can be found on <https://newyeareve2024.com/new-years-eve-2024-in-castle-rock-colorado/>

## Board of Directors Set Date and Location for 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members

The Homes Association Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled for March 4, 2024 at 6 pm at Cielo at Castle Pines, located at 485 West Happy Canyon Road, Castle Rock, CO 80108. The evening will begin with a social hour from 6 pm to 7 pm where a taco buffet will be served. This time will allow you to meet your neighbors, review informational boards on Village issues and projects, discuss issues with Board, Committee and staff members, and get a chance to meet the candidates for the open Board seats. The business meeting will begin at 7 pm. Watch for your Annual Meeting Information Package which will be mailed to all Homes Association Members in early February 2024.

## 2024 Homes Association Budget Approved

During the Village Board of Directors meeting held Thursday, November 16, the Board of Directors approved the Homes Association budget for 2024. Mark Larson, General Manager presented the budget summary and answered questions on the Homes Association budget. This year the proposed budget was the main topic of discussion at a Coffee with the Manager event held in October. Assessments for custom homes/lots will remain \$400.00 per month and \$300.00 per month for alternative homes/lots. The Board recognized the members of the Long Range Planning and Finance Committee, Wendell Kurtz (Chair), Bill Smith, Kathy Carrington, Chris Scurto, Mike Porter and John Sakys for their hard work and long hours put forth to finalize the 2024 budget. The 2024 budget summary will be mailed to the members in early February in the Annual Meeting Information packet. While any Board or Committee member is available to discuss the 2024 budget with you, the primary contact for information is Mark Larson, General Manager. Mark can be reached by email at [mark@thevillagecastlepines.com](mailto:mark@thevillagecastlepines.com), or by phone at 303-814-1345.



Walking in a winter wonderland.  
Photo by Libby Drbal





ample time to join the club if you wish to get involved and take advantage of all of the wonderful activities that we offer our members. For more information, contact Garden Club President, Lisa Berlin, LisaBerlin333@gmail.com, 650-863-3369. The Village Castle Pines Garden Club is “where friendships bloom”, www.vcpgc.org.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

### Garden Club

The Village Castle Pines Garden Club had a vibrant and growing year in 2023.

This past spring and summer, members spent many beautiful days together gardening at both the Serenity Garden in the Village and at Cherokee Memorial Garden at Cherokee Ranch. Members were also actively involved in several charity fundraisers throughout the year.

As summer ended, the 180 members of the Garden Club participated in a variety of activities. Members enjoyed field trips to both the Betty Ford Garden in Vail, the Denver Center for Performing Arts for a backstage tour, and a new adventure – the Lights and Limo tour of Christmas decorations in Denver. Two very popular “Wine in the Garden” parties were held in the gardens of our own members, along with a new member coffee to meet and greet our 29 new members.

The Garden Club also hosted two educational speakers this year, with the first presenting information on growing herbs and the second hosted by one of the talented members of the club who spoke about decorating for the holidays using faux greenery and flowers. Rounding out a busy schedule was the annual holiday brunch held at the Cherokee Ranch and Castle.

Winter Monthly Programs will be on the first Friday of the month, 10 am at the CPHA Wildcat Corner, and advanced reservations are required. New Members are welcomed.

- January 5, Bloom Where You Are Planted, presented by Pam Kelly,
- February 2, Rock scaping, Location TBD,
- March 1, Blue Bird Seasons - Witnessing Climate Change in My Piece of the World, Location TBD
- April 5, Container Gardening, Location TBD

Additionally in the new year, the Garden Club will welcome four more educational and inspirational speakers at our regular programs on the first Friday of each month. And, planning is already underway for the annual fashion show and luncheon in May.

The Village Castle Pines Garden Club is an organization of vibrant members who enjoy gardening, education, and charitable and social activities. The fiscal year for the Garden Club goes from June 1 through May 31, so there is still

### Greetings to our Newest Neighbors

*Welcome to The Village at Castle Pines!*

Barry & Tamara Burns	Anaconda Court
George Whalen	Aztec Drive
Yongkai Wang & Cheng Zhang	Bantala Place
David & Joan Tinkelman	Borealis Way
John & Shelly Benson	Castle Brook Drive West
Gary & Paula Ellermann	Castle Pines Drive North
Keith Giacchino & Robin Gist	Castle Pines Drive South
Patricia Parkhouse	Chateau Ridge Road
Fred Ellis	Country Club Pkwy
John & Anne Kelley	Country Club Pkwy
Clay & Shawna Holderman	Cypress Way
Nicholas Yorckak	
& Molly Bauchmann	Glengarry Place
John & Patricia McDonnell	Golden Bear Lane
Mike & Sarah Vaughn	Good Hope Drive
Heather & Eric Turner	Holy Cross Court
Timothy & Leslie Harkins	Holy Cross Lane
Jack & Crystal Deal	Massive Peak Loop
Sayera Kamilova Gonzalez	
& Israel Gonzalez III	Massive Peak Loop
Neil & Samantha Hanson	Morning Star Drive
Roger & Suzanne Miller	Morning Star Way
Dennis & Sally Loucks	Northwood Court
Alan & Christine Notary	Orofino Place
Justin & Christian Stearns	Parnassus Place
Roger McLeod III	
& Emilie McLeod	Prospect Drive
Steven & Robin Keppers	Ramshorn Drive
Amy Wales	Richmond Hill Court
Todd & Patti Buchardt	Ridge Plaza
James & Tina Guidry	Silver Cliff Court
Stephen & Marcie Stacy	Trinity Peak Lane
Joe & Laura Pellar	Trinity Peak Lane
Spencer & Cara Crouch	Wildcat Bend Court

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](mailto:admin@thevillagecastlepines.com).



## Parks and Recreation

### 2023 – A year in review and a look ahead to 2024

In 2023, Village residents enjoyed a full slate of events arranged by your Parks and Recreations Committee. The year started off with the family friendly Winterfest at the Summit Club, followed by a visit from the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt at the Canyon Club. We kicked off the summer with Summer Solstice at the Canyon Club, followed by Music in the Park and the Fourth of July Festivities, including a parade, barbecue, live entertainment and a 5K Fun Run. We hosted three well attended tennis and pickleball socials at our sports courts complex, enjoyed Movie in the Park with your favorite food trucks, and wrapped the season up with the Holiday Tree Lighting, including a visit with Santa at the Fitness Center.

Looking forward to 2024, the upcoming events schedule will kick off in March with an Easter Egg Hunt at the Canyon Club Playing Field, and a photo op with the Easter Bunny. The beginning of the summer fun will start with the Fourth of July celebrations. August will be a busy month featuring the 2024 BMW Golf Tournament, and surrounding events, including Music in the Park. We will again host three tennis and pickleball socials at our sports courts complex throughout the summer. There will be a Kids Triathlon at the Canyon Club in September along with Movie in the Park, complete with food trucks. The season will wrap up with the annual Holiday Tree Lighting event at the Village Lakes Fitness Center in early December.

We hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy some or all of the activities this year. The Parks and Recreations Committee wishes you and your family a happy holiday season.

## Ask the DRC

### Trash Container Storage

**Q. I don't have room in my garage, can I store my trash/recycling containers outside?**

**A.** The new containers, depending on the quantity and sizes you ordered, can be large and take up more room in your garage. The Rules and Regulations state, "When carts are not placed for pickup, trash, recycle materials, and trash and recycling carts must be secured to prevent access by animals or insects and must be stored in a garage or other area not visible from another Dwelling Unit, a Village roadway or other Common Area, or a golf course.

**Q. May I purchase a shed or have a fenced area built to store my carts?**

**A.** As with all exterior improvements, the Design Review Committee (DRC) must review and approve the improvement which includes any additions, storage structures, fences or walls for concealment of trash containers. When it comes to out buildings, the structure must reflect the architecture and materials of the home. Should you desire an addition to the home, it must integrate with the home and look as if it is part of the original home design.

**Q. How do I contact the DRC for questions or review of my improvement?**

**A.** You can reach the Design Review Administrator at 303-814-1345 or by email at [DRC@thevillagecastlepines.com](mailto:DRC@thevillagecastlepines.com).

## Homes Association Monthly Assessment Coupons

More and more residents are opting for recurring bill pay through their bank or using the Homes Association direct debit to pay their monthly assessments. Due to the increase in use of these payment options, the Homes Association will not be mailing payment coupons to residents for your 2024 assessments unless requested. For those who would still like to receive payment coupons for 2024 please contact the Homes Association at 303-814-1345 and we will mail a set to you. As a reminder, you can download the direct debit form from the Village website at [thevillagecastlepines.com](http://thevillagecastlepines.com) or give the Homes Association office a call at 303-814-1345 and we will provide you the proper form. The direct debit method is a safe, secure, and efficient way to pay your assessments.

## Jogging in the Snow

Exercise has short and long-term benefits, including better mood, lower blood pressure, and a lower risk for heart disease and type-2 diabetes. But here in Colorado, exercise in cold weather can be a challenge. Follow these safety tips for exercising in cold weather:

1. Check weather conditions and wind chill before you head outside. Even if you're wearing warm clothing, wind chill can make exercising outdoors dangerous.
2. Be aware of frostbite and hypothermia. Frostbite can affect exposed areas like cheeks, nose, and ears. If you experience numbness or stinging in those areas, get out of the cold and slowly warm the affected area with lukewarm water or blankets. Hypothermia is evident by intense shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination and fatigue. If you suspect hypothermia, you should seek medical attention immediately.

*Continued on page 6*



### Capital Project Updates

As we reflect on 2023, we're excited to share the accomplishments and progress made by the Metro District in enhancing our community's infrastructure. We have been very busy this year! We completed several projects over the summer of 2023, including:

- **Roadway Repairs:** We completed \$2.7 million in roadway repairs. We appreciate the community's patience as we repaved the Gate 1 and Gate 3 entrances. Over the last 3 years, the District has "touched" approximately 85% of the lane-miles within the Village.
- **Three New Wells:** The District continues to make progress on the installation of pumps and motors for our three new wells within the Village. We expect this project to be completed this winter. We are spending over \$1.0 million on this important project. This project is an important project that will help improve the resiliency of our water supply.
- **Well A-12:** We completed rehabilitation on Well A-12. We spent approximately \$420,000 on rehabilitating one of the most important wells in our system.
- **WTP Update:** The District is making regulatory updates, process improvements, and technological updates to our Water Treatment Plant. We recently solicited proposals and signed a contract with an engineer to lead the design of this project. More information regarding this project will be forthcoming.



In closing, we're proud to share the impactful strides made by the Metro District in 2023. The completion of significant projects, from extensive roadway repairs to crucial well installations and system upgrades, reflects our commitment to enhancing the community's infrastructure. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to delivering excellence and ensuring the continued prosperity of the Village. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we work towards a safer and more resilient future together.

### Use Care Around Thin Ice



Thin ice might seem tempting, especially for adults, kids, and dogs. But the consequences of venturing onto the frozen surface can be severe. Simply slipping and falling onto the ice can be painful, but plunging through the ice into cold water is often deadly.

Staying off the ice is the best plan of action. If your dog or someone falls in, don't try to be a hero. Stay on shore and call 911 instead. South Metro Fire Rescue's firefighters have the right equipment and special training for ice rescues. Firefighters typically use a four-step process to help rescue someone who has fallen through the ice:

1. **Self-Rescue:** When firefighters arrive, they try to talk to the victim in the water and coach them to self-rescue. Ice rescue is dangerous – if the victim can self-rescue, then firefighters can stay off the ice, too. To self-rescue, find the ice edge where you fell in because it is the strongest. Put your elbows on the ice surface, kick your legs so they float behind you, and kick harder to push yourself forward and climb onto the ice. Once on the ice, roll on your side to safety. If you can't kick hard enough to get onto the ice, your arms will freeze on the ice, and keep your head above the water if you pass out from hypothermia or exhaustion.
2. **Reach:** Firefighters will attempt to reach out to you with a long branch, pole, or ladder.
3. **Throw:** Firefighters will throw a life ring, life vest, or rope at the victim to pull them out.
4. **Row and Go:** Firefighters may use a boat ("row") or crawl out on the ice ("go") to rescue you. The firefighters will wear special gear for protection, including a rope that connects them to rescuers who remain on shore.

Ice rescue is tough and dangerous. If you can self-rescue, that's great because it keeps everyone safer. But the key advice is simple: Stay Off the Ice!

If you have any questions, please contact the Castle Pines Metro District at 303-688-8330.



## Smart Winter Watering

In Colorado, we know the weather can be unpredictable – especially in the winter – and it can wreak havoc on your landscaping. Limited snowfall, low humidity, minimal soil moisture, and variable temperatures often damage trees, shrubs, perennials, and lawns. You should plan for winter hand watering (now through March) one to four times per month depending on the weather, temperature, and soil conditions. Many landscape plants grow roots throughout the winter and need moisture to survive. Drought-stressed plants are more vulnerable to disease, insect infestations, and branch and twig dieback, so consistent moisture is needed.

## Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits Required in Village

All construction work within the Castle Pines Metro District right-of-way (ROW), which may include streets, sidewalks, and trails, is closely monitored by the District through a well-managed ROW permitting process which includes permit review, management, and inspection.

The process assures safety for the traveling public, minimizes impacts, and maximizes efficient use of the ROW. The permit process also protects the District’s investment in the infrastructure as excavations and disturbance to the roadway and landscaped areas are to be restored to their high-quality condition.

Please reach out to [permits@castlepinesmetro.com](mailto:permits@castlepinesmetro.com) regarding the ROW permit application process and general conditions.



### Snow Removal

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



Left to right: David King, Tad Walden, Rick Huser, Cassie Vetter, Mike Lanam



## 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

Josh Shackelford – *District Manager*  
Sue Mantz – *Asst. District Manager*  
Jason LeTellier – *Operations Superintendent*  
Evan Person – *Capital Program Manager*  
LeAnna Gonzales – *Staff Accountant*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Huser, *Chairman*  
Mike Lanam, *Treasurer*  
David King, *Co-Treasurer*  
Tad Walden, *Secretary*  
Cassie Vetter, *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.

At this time, the community will be connected through a Zoom link, which can be found on the District website, <https://www.castlepinesmetro.com/meetings-events/board-meetings/>



## Manager's Report



### "Just Another Day in Paradise"

We are getting close to bidding 2023 farewell with the holiday season upon us once again.

The Village at Castle Pines is a wonderful place to live and work. Throughout the year I enjoyed meeting new residents and visiting with long-time residents as they enjoyed the Village facilities and events. Once again Emergency Services put on a delicious pancake breakfast. Nearly 300 residents braved a cold October morning and were served a delicious breakfast provided by the Emergency Services staff.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Members, we presented information on a proposal from Crown Castle to improve Village cell phone service coverage by installing fiber and cell relay stations in several locations. The plan was to have this service installed in 2023. Crown Castle and the Homes Association and the Metropolitan District have not been able to agree on an installation plan that will not cause damage to Village roadway infrastructure. All parties are working to resolve this issue and allow the project to move forward. More information will be available at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the members.

As we near the end of 2023 I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers within the community who I work with daily. During my nearly twenty-four years with the Homes Association, five as Chief of Emergency Services and the last nineteen as your General Manager, I have learned so much from these professional volunteers. Their willingness to volunteer their time and expertise is one of the reasons the Village remains a world-class community. It is a pleasure to work with them; the Village is a solid community because of their dedication.

I would also like to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year. The Emergency Services officers work diligently to make The Village at Castle Pines the safe, secure community for which it is renowned. The Homes Association staff consisting of April Clendenin, Linda Matthews, Brianna Richmeier, Nate Nicholas and Kevin Olsen continue to provide you with first class service. If you have done a landscaping project this year or had questions concerning your landscaping, you have had the opportunity to work with Bill Holwell our landscape technician. Bill has a wealth of information and expertise, and he is only a phone call away. At the Fitness Center Kris Anderson, Jennifer Holly and Tracey Hanko cheerfully staff the facility to maintain it in top condition. These employees, along with the many community volunteers, make a great team dedicated to maintaining this world-class community.

Please celebrate this holiday season safely as you are traveling on the Village roadways and remember that the speed limit for most of our roads is 25 MPH. The extra minute you save by not obeying the posted speed limit or traffic control signs is not worth the safety of others on the roadways as well as the wildlife that also call the Village their home.

As we say goodbye to 2023 and look forward to a prosperous new year, my entire staff and I wish you a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mark G. Larson - General Manager  
mark@thevillagecastlepines.com | 303-814-1345

## Pancake Breakfast a Hit

The Emergency Services Pancake Breakfast was a tremendous success, even in the face of snowy conditions. We served breakfast to over 300 guests, including members of South Metro Fire Rescue and Douglas County Sheriff's Office. A special shout-out to Mark Larson, Craig Sundquist, Jackie Sundquist, Kevin Olsen, Zoey Olsen, Ryan Olsen, Lyn Krause and Steven Westberg for their invaluable assistance in catering to this large crowd.

This cherished annual tradition provides residents with a unique opportunity to connect with their neighbors and meet the dedicated men and women who comprise our Emergency Services team. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who played a part in making this year's event such a resounding success. We look forward to seeing you again next year!



## Jogging in the Snow *Continued from page 3*

3. Dress in layers rather than bundling up. Use a synthetic material instead of cotton for your first layer, then add on a layer of fleece or wool. Your outer layer should be waterproof.
4. Take extra care to be visible since there's less daylight in winter. Wear reflective clothing.
5. Drink lots of water. Even if you're not thirsty, drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout.

Following these tips will help you enjoy exercising, even in cold weather.



Remember that safety should be a priority during the holiday season to ensure a peaceful and joyful celebration. By taking precautions and being aware of potential risks, you can reduce the chances of accidents and enjoy a safe and happy holiday.

The Emergency Services team wishes you a joyful holiday and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Matt Wortsman

Chief of Emergency Services

## A Message from the Chief

**H**oliday safety is crucial to ensure a joyful and accident-free season. Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or any other holiday, here are some general holiday safety tips to keep in mind:



### Travel Safely

- If you're traveling, make sure your vehicle is in good condition, and you have an emergency kit.
- Drive cautiously in adverse weather conditions and obey traffic laws.
- Don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver or alternate transportation if needed.

### Tree Safety/Decorations

- Ensure holiday lights and decorations are in good condition without frayed wires or damage.
- Keep decorations away from heat sources and flammable materials.
- Water real Christmas trees regularly to prevent drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- Use a sturdy tree stand to prevent your tree from tipping over.
- Do not overload electrical outlets and remember to use surge protectors.

### Fire Safety

- Be cautious with candles and open flames. Keep them away from flammable materials.
- Install and check smoke detectors and fire extinguishers regularly.
- Use space heaters safely, keeping them away from curtains and furniture.

### Home Security

- If you're away, ask a neighbor to collect mail/packages.
- Lock doors and windows in addition to arming your security system.
- Turn in a Vacation Check form with Emergency Services.

### Mental Health

- Manage stress by taking breaks, getting enough sleep, and practicing self-care.
- Reach out to friends, family, or professionals if you're feeling overwhelmed.

## Officer of the Quarter

**P**atrol Officer Chris Dierker is a Colorado native who grew up in Denver, where he graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School before attending CU Boulder.



Congratulations Patrol Officer Chris Dierker.

Chris started his career with Castle Pines Emergency Services in July of this year, quickly becoming a favorite among his coworkers due to his outstanding work ethic, his loyalty to CPES and his positive attitude toward life. When he's not working, Chris enjoys travel, skiing, racquetball, and movies.

If you see Chris during the performance of his Patrol duties, please take a minute to congratulate him on being selected as the CPES Officer of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2023.

## 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*  
April Clendenin, *Accountant*  
Linda Matthews, *Executive Assistant/DRC Administrator*  
Kevin Olsen, *Compliance Coordinator*  
Bianna Richmeier, *Administrative Assistant*

**EMERGENCY SERVICES (ES)**  
303-688-6446

Matt Wortsman, *Chief of ES*  
Steve Camino, *ES Administrator*

**CPHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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Doug Cooper, *Vice President*  
Chuck Skinner, *Treasurer*  
Wendy Ingraham, *Secretary*  
Al Notary, *Assistant Treasurer*



**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 [sclifford@estreet.com](mailto: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: [Brianna@thevillagecastlepines.com](mailto:Brianna@thevillagecastlepines.com)



Deer - Photo by Ron West



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE  
WILDLIFE COMMITTEE**



Owl - Photo by Glen Burmeister



Northern Flicker - Photo by Ron West



Squirrel - Photo by Fletcher Brown