



FOURTH
QUARTER
2015



Administration



Aquatics



Finance



Fire Dept



Flood Recovery



Planning



Parking



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Public Services

CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS NEWSLETTER

City of Manitou Springs, Mayor's Office

By Nicole Nicoletta
Mayor

Happy New Year, Manitou Springs!
I hope this message finds you well and that your year is off to a great start.

As you can imagine, my year began with excitement. Taking the oath of office and conducting my first few meetings has been an honor and a wonderful experience. Manitou Springs' city staff as well as regional elected officials and board members have been welcoming and generous in sharing their words of wisdom. I offer a big thanks to Donna Kast, Alicia Stoke, and Jason Wells for making my transition into office very smooth.

I have some great initiatives on the horizon that I hope many of you will get involved with. These initiatives include: heading up a task force to address the future of Hiawatha Gardens (formerly known as Tajine Alami), creating a task force to proactively address panhandling in the downtown corridor, an Employee of the Month program (see right), and the creation of the Mayor's Art Corner.

There are many other long-term projects and



Photo courtesy of Alicia Stoke
City Clerk Donna Kast administers the oath of office to incoming Mayor Nicole Nicoletta on Jan. 5.

goals that I will be working on; I'll be happy to chat with anyone about them. I couldn't be happier with our Council; their enthusiasm and dedication to this

Employee of the Month Program

The Manitou Springs City Council is proud to announce our Employee of the Month initiative. Beginning in March 2016, residents and city staff will have the opportunity to nominate a city employee as Employee of the Month.

Nominations can be submitted in the City Hall lobby, 606 Manitou Ave., or via email to Mayor Nicoletta at nnicoletta@comsgov.com.

The Employee of the Month will receive \$50 of Manitou Money and a month of free parking in any paid parking spot in Manitou Springs.

Plans are to highlight the winner in the display case in City Hall; for information on how you or your group can be part of designing the display, contact Mayor Nicoletta via the above email address or by phone, 685-2555.

We hope this initiative will help us all get to know our city employees better and inspire pride and excitement throughout the city.

city will make this coming year one to remember. Please feel free to contact me at any time via email, nnicoletta@comsgov.com, or through my city phone number, 685-2554. I look forward to serving as your mayor over the next two years and welcome dialogue on all things Manitou.

Finance Department

By Rebecca Davis,
finance director

First, information about the budget:

The budget message for 2016 was "Demonstrated Resilience."

The city is in a much improved position, in terms of both organizational resources and from a fiscal perspective, to respond to unexpected needs as they may possibly arise during the coming year.

This is due to the organization systems, human resources and inter-agency relationships that have been established from the initial recovery from the flooding and continuing fire/flood mitigation efforts

from 2014 and 2015 and a healthier General Fund balance.

In 2015, the city received multiple grants for our flood recovery efforts. For example, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs awarded the city a \$643,300 grant to outfit an entire recovery team and facility. And given our conservative nature of sales tax budgeting, the robust 2015 sales tax revenues means the General Fund realized approximately \$1.7 million more in revenues than was anticipated in the original budget.

In 2016, more federal grants are anticipated via the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Housing and Urban Development.

Sales tax is projected to be lower than 2015 due to budgeting as conservatively as possible for the beginning of the year. If 2016 continues the 2015 sales tax trend, the budgeted figure will be amended upward during the mid-year amendment process.

The city's need to match various recovery-related grant opportunities consumed the increased sales tax revenues in 2015 and will continue to do so in 2016.

We see this as a positive trend, however, insofar as important improvements will be made within our jurisdictional boundaries via funds collected by other taxing entities with a modest 25 percent

contribution from the city for some grants.

Also important to note: Although overall spending is expected to increase considerably in the coming year, General Fund expenses are expected to remain stable.

Second, some housekeeping:

For those of you with dogs and/or cats, it's time to renew their city licenses (for those of you with literate dogs and/or cats, woof woof; meow meow). The city issues dog and cat licenses based on the calendar year and they all expired Dec. 31.

The license tag changes every year so it's easier to detect if not

See FINANCE/page 11

City Administration

By Jason S. Wells,
city administrator

The 2015 wrap-up report from the City Administrator's office brings a mixed bag. It is with a definite heavy heart that I bid farewell to the first mayor I had the privilege of working with here and one who I have witnessed bring as much collaborative spirit and tact to the position as any community could wish for.

At the same time that I wish Mayor Snyder the best as he ponders his next great pursuit, however, I warmly welcome Mayor Nicoletta and the new and energetic perspective she promises to bring to the position. I am eagerly looking forward to working with her and our other new councilors in continuing to lift Manitou Springs even further — as a place so rich in achievement and culture that each of us can and do feel privileged every day to be able to associate ourselves with the name.

As we know, the earlier part of last year brought yet more unwelcome precipitation to the community, and with it, more damage to various infrastructure assets and challenges to overcome at the municipal level.

At the same time, though, we were able to celebrate the completion of the \$6 million Williams Canyon Drainage Improvement Project, mostly with state and federal grant funds. For comparison's sake, this price tag is roughly equal to that which the city spent to provide all

basic (General Fund) services in 2015.

Moreover, we were able to secure many millions in additional grant funding to address both the most recent damage as well as a broad array of more persistent issues, benefiting the community in the long term.

As 2015 began, my office (and its inherent limitations) was charged with overseeing all recovery and mitigation efforts on the city's behalf.

As 2016 commences, however, we are staffed by an extremely capable eight-member recovery/mitigation team as well as a city planner focused solely on facilitating a comprehensive planning process geared toward strengthening the city's physical, economic and social fortitude in the face of future threats.

This process itself — along with seven of the nine recovery-related staff positions — is funded throughout 2016 and beyond via federal grants. We owe a great deal of gratitude to our many advocates, from the local to the national level, who made this capacity building possible.

Now that we find ourselves on rather stable ground with respect to the community's ongoing resilience objectives, we on city staff can set our sights on several exciting endeavors in 2016, not necessarily related to Manitou Springs' recent history of natural disaster.

As this edition of the Bulletin goes to press, we have just closed on the historic Hiawatha Gardens (Tajine Alami) property. In addition to the



Courtesy photo

Executive Administrative Assistant Alicia Stoke greets Gov. John Hickenlooper and Robert Bonnie, U.S. Natural Resources and Environment undersecretary, to the Williams Canyon Drainage Improvement Project ribbon-cutting ceremony in late May 2015.

possibility of additional public parking, the community can expect a rich community dialogue about what to do with the structure itself.

Also on the property acquisition front, thanks to the commendable efforts of the Open Space Advisory Committee, the city received a Great Outdoors Colorado grant to purchase what has already become known as the "Voth Open Space." Situated above El Paso Boulevard along Black Canyon Road this parcel, when formally acquired this spring, will proudly represent the city's first piece of open space north of the U.S. Highway 24 corridor.

This space is too limited to set the stage for a number of other worth-

while special efforts in the city's hopper for 2016.

Regardless, in recognition of the efforts of the 65 full-time employees who work tirelessly to assist City Council and their objectives, to keep the water running, to keep your public spaces enjoyable, drivable and clean, to make sure your tax dollars are responsibly managed and to preserve public safety, know that these day-to-day obligations occupy most of your city staff's regular efforts.

For that, I am personally appreciative on a daily basis and I hope you will join me in acknowledging all the often thankless efforts of our wonderful staff as we enter this New Year.

City Clerk/Human Resources Department

By Donna Kast,
city clerk and human resources director

As we move into the new year, changes are occurring at City Hall. One of those changes includes expanded duties for the City Clerk's Department. In fact, the department has been revised; it is now the City Clerk/Human Resources Department.

This department is comprised of two staff members, Deputy City Clerk/Deputy HR Director Richard Parsons and me. Richard and I are excited about this opportunity and have no doubt that we are going to be busy!

But why has this change been implemented and what benefits can be realized by adding an HR Department?

This was done partly due to recommendations from Evergreen Solutions, a public sector consulting firm specializing in human resource

management solutions.

In its report, Evergreen Solutions noted that "as the city grows and the human resource requirements become more numerous and complicated, it becomes more critical that the city have a dedicated human resource person. ... While it was common for smaller municipalities to designate a current employee as the 'human resource person' in the past, the approach is less common today due to the need for specialized human resource skills."

As noted above, human resource management has become more complicated in recent years and that, coupled with the fact that the number

of staff has increased, made it advisable to designate one specific department to oversee these duties. But what benefits can be realized by this addition?

As with any city department, one benefit is employing people who have knowledge and skills related to a certain function. The function of a human resource department is to focus on the city's greatest resource: our employees.

Without good employees, the city could not provide the quality of service the public deserves. HR serves as an advocate for employees, helping to ensure a safe, satisfying and productive work environment.

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The HR Department strives to ensure that all employees are treated fairly and equitably, but also to ensure that the city is protected from employment-related liabilities.

Employment law is complicated and ever-changing. By appointing an HR department to keep abreast of current regulations, other departments are free to focus undivided attention on their areas of expertise.

HR's role is to advise and assist management on how to manage employees and deal with difficult situations that arise before they escalate to the point of distraction. In addition, HR staff is devoted to developing effective policies, procedures and guidelines with the ultimate goal of helping to produce an efficient and satisfied workforce.

For additional information, please visit the city's Human Resources page at www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/departments/human-resources.

Planning Department

By Wade Burkholder,
planning director

The Planning Department remained very busy over the past quarter developing the Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The next community meeting begins at 6 p.m. Jan. 21 at City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave.

Information will be presented on the plan's visions, goals and strategies; the final draft is scheduled for review in the spring and the plan should be completed in June.

Additionally, the department processed various code revisions such as revised zoning definitions, new variance procedures, increased traffic-impact analysis procedures as well as the long-term and short-term residential lodging ordinances.

The department now requires that applicants meet with staff before submitting an application for hearing before the Planning Commission and/or Historic Preservation Commission. This will provide an opportunity for staff to meet with applicants to explain the process and the information needed so that board- and commission-level reviews are more productive.

Regarding the long-term lodging occupancy ordinance, hotels and motels within the downtown and commercial zone districts offering lodging of more than 30 days must comply with new ordinance language and meet efficiency dwelling unit requirements per the International Building Code, 2009 and as amended.

Furthermore, no more than 20 percent of actual room rental days in an establishment may be used for long-term occupancy lodging during the year. This ordinance becomes effective July 7.

By contrast, the short-term lodging ordinance focuses on the regulation of vacation rentals and rentals of 30 days or less within the city of Manitou Springs. This

ordinance will be reviewed again at the 6 p.m. Feb. 10 Planning Commission meeting.

This ordinance is intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public, including residents and visitors. The regulations establish standards for operation of vacation rentals which ensure that they are compatible with and do not adversely impact surrounding uses within the city, nor encroach upon traditional neighborhood characteristics.

In the coming months, the Planning Department will present an updated zoning map, writing additional revisions to the zoning code and subdivision regulations and presenting Connect GIS, which will permit viewing capabilities of City GIS data layers specific to individual properties.

Additionally, Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs city staffs are continuing to collaborate on the 2011 Manitou Site Development and Management Plan. The Incline Management Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss next steps in Incline management possibilities.

These groups are working proactively to address issues and establish new policies that protect the quality of life for residents, business owners and visitors and protect the safety of Incline users and the health of the natural environment.

The city of Colorado Springs is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to apply for a grant to repair the Incline's lower

DID YOU KNOW?

The city has a Maintenance Mini-Grant program that provides up to \$500 grants to properties undergoing certain types of work in the Historic District.

Historic District properties are also eligible to apply for a State Tax Credit for costs of both internal and external work. The usual credit amount is 20 percent of the project costs; however, since Manitou Springs is in a declared disaster-designation area, property owners can add another 5 percent to that credit.



Bulletin file photo

Signs were posted throughout Manitou Springs in 2015, encouraging residents and visitors to give feedback on the Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan.

section. If the grant comes through, rehabilitation work will occur from

Tie 1 to the bottom section of the newly repaired area (roughly Tie 1575).

As information becomes available, we will continue updating the public on any Incline closures. Both cities are well aware of last-minute training on the Incline for the Ascent and

Marathon and will not allow construction to impact those final training days.

This spring, the city of Manitou Springs will implement the Lot Spot program, which will offer a visual display of available parking spaces within city-managed parking lots: Hiawatha Gardens (the former Tajine Alami lot), Wichita, Smischny and Barr Trail.

The Iron Springs Chateau and Cog Railway have agreed to

participate, so the signage will also display parking availability within those private lots. Signage will be installed at the corner of Old Man's Trail and Manitou Avenue, well before traffic reaches Ruxton Avenue.

The signage and the possibility of a year-round shuttle serving the Ruxton Avenue corridor will offer relief from vehicle congestion in this area.

The city also is collaborating with Colorado Springs to develop a trespassing ordinance centered on the Incline's posted rules as well as increasing the ambassador program with the Incline Friends group.

Lastly, the city has submitted a transportation grant to rehabilitate Ruxton Avenue from Manitou Avenue to Brook Street. This would include undergrounding utilities, sidewalk repair and installation and creek-wall stabilization, as well as new, more effective, signage along the corridor.

The public will be able to provide comments during the annual report on site development and management plan implementation, to be presented to the Manitou Springs City Council in March.

Contact the Planning Department, 685-4398, for more information about any of these projects or programs.

Plan Manitou

By Karen Berchtold,
planner II

The Planning Department staff is working to finalize the new scope of work for the city's joint Master Plan-Hazard Mitigation Plan, of which Clarion Associates LLC is the lead project consultant.

The scope and contract was presented to City Council for approval on Jan. 19.

The first community meeting is

planned for February and a second meeting is planned for April; dates will be provided soon. Please visit the project website, www.planmanitou.com, for schedule updates as well as educational materials.

The project is funded by a Community Development Block Grant/Disaster Recovery Planning Resiliency grant administered by the state's Department of Local Affairs.

The consultant team members are: Darcie White, principal, Clarion

(project manager); Acclivity Associates (hazard mitigation and resiliency); Economic & Planning Systems (economic development and housing); Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (transportation); Olsson Associates (engineering); and Urban Interactive Studios (website and web tools).

Recently, Clarion Associates has managed several large projects under the Planning Resiliency grant program for other communities impacted by Colorado's 2013 flooding. These



include the Longmont Integrated Area Comprehensive Plan/multi-modal Transportation Plan and a Comprehensive Plan update with a resiliency component for the town of Milliken.

For more information, contact Karen Berchtold, Planning Department, at 685-2259 or kberchtold@comsgov.com.

SP+ Parking

By Neal Yowell,
SP+ parking manager

Happy New Year, everyone.

The month of January is a grace period to allow the purchase of the lot permits and for the renewal of the Residential Permit Parking Zone guest hang tags. We will inform the RPP residents when their guest hang tags are available for renewal — look for fliers on your doors or in your mail letting you know when they are available.

The RPP program was created in April 2013 to mitigate adverse and chronic levels of non-resident (those who do not live on the actual street) parking along streets with adjacent residential properties.

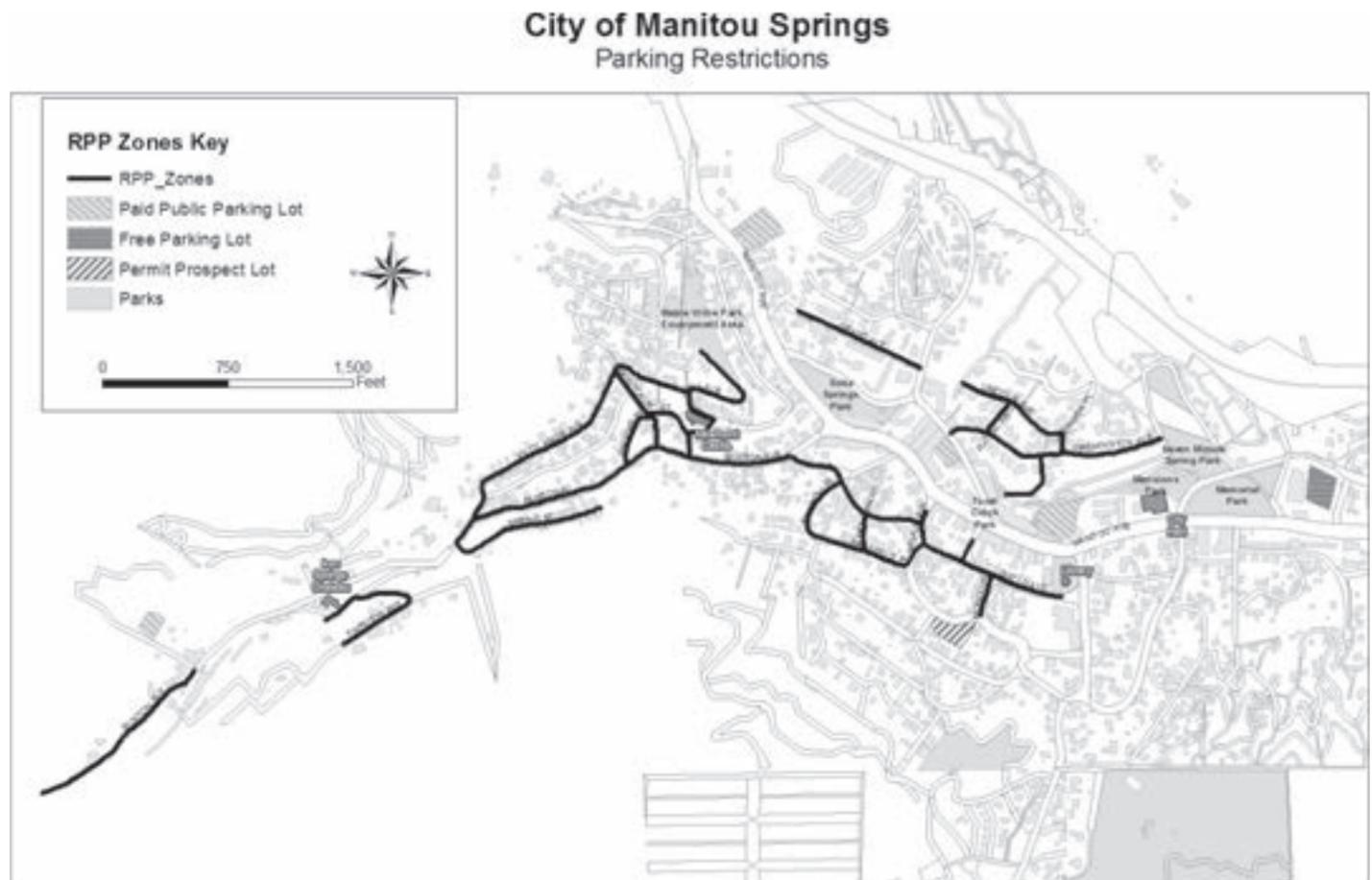
The RPP program addresses mainly the neighborhood quality of life issues, which include:

- Availability of parking for residents and their guests;
- The safety of our children in the neighborhoods;
- Traffic safety;
- Emergency vehicle access;
- Impacts on delivery services;
- And other basic services for the neighborhoods.

The guest hang tags for the four RPP Zones have not arrived yet. Keep an eye on our Manitou Springs Parking Information Facebook page about when the permits are available.

The Prospect, Wichita, Cañon and Smischny 2016 lot permits are now available for purchase:

- Prospect lot permits are \$60 per year;
- Wichita and Cañon lots permits



are \$240 per year;

- Wichita and Cañon PM lots permits are \$30 per year and are valid only 4 p.m.-10 a.m.;
- Smischny lot permits are \$75 per year; These permits are pro-rated.

In the winter season, the parking hours of operation on the downtown streets are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week. The three-hour free option is available Mondays through Thursdays on the downtown streets only.

To use your three free hours, you still need go to the kiosks and enter your vehicle license plate number. Select Option 1: Pay-to-Park, then Option 2: 3 hours free.

The parking lots operate 7 a.m.-8

p.m. seven days a week and are not included in the free-parking program. Parking hours vary according to the season: The winter schedule is now through April 3, 2016; the summer schedule is April 4, 2016, to Nov. 7, 2016.

The Barr parking lot daily fee was increased to \$10 per day in November 2015. \$5 vouchers are available at the Barr Camp and can be reimbursed at the SP+ Parking office in City Hall.

The upper Ruxton Avenue and Ruxton RPP zones were increased in November 2015 to \$5 per hour. Customers purchasing parking in the Ruxton RPP zones may park there 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays only.

Parking is not available 4 p.m.-8 a.m.

Customers who purchase parking on upper Ruxton may park there 7 a.m.-8 p.m. seven days per week. Parking is not available 8 p.m.-7 a.m.

For your convenience, parking citations can be paid in our office, at www.parkingticketpayment.com/manitou or by calling 1-888-614-7240.

You also may pay by mail, using a money order or check payable to Standard Parking Inc. Send payment to Manitou Springs Parking, 606 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs 80829. Be sure to write your citation ticket number and license plate number on the front of the check/money order to ensure proper credit.

Thank you and happy parking!

Manitou Springs Police Department

By Odette Saglimbeni,
public information officer

The Soda Springs Task Force's strategic plan includes the mission to review historic problems at Soda Springs Park which the community perceived as unsafe and criminal in nature or that otherwise erode the quality of life in Manitou Springs, and to develop strategies and tactics to increase the access to and safety of the park and surrounding areas.

The vision is that Soda Springs Park can be safe for all to use, free from harassment and crime; a park where all can feel welcome and safe.

Due to these ongoing issues, as well as an increase in citizen complaints regarding aggressive panhandling and other criminal activity occurring throughout the downtown area, the Manitou Springs Police Department conducted a saturation patrol of the area.

Working alongside Strategic Alliance Security, this included multiple hours of walking throughout the downtown area and plainclothes operations conducted by MSPD officers.

This operation proved to be a great success, resulting in a total of 129 arrests in August and September 2015. The charges included dog at large, operating a business without a license, camping and possession/distribution of drugs.

This is an approximately 40 percent increase from 2014. As a result, the number of citizen complaints about criminal activity in the downtown area decreased dramatically.

The MSPD plans to continue creative efforts to reduce or eliminate the negative elements affecting the safety and security of our businesses, residents and visitors.

Remember, if you see something, say something. The only sure way to know that the Police



A Strategic Alliance Security staffer, left, talks with people near Soda Springs Park in late August 2015.

Department is aware of an issue is by reporting it immediately to Dispatch at 390-5555 or 911 for emergencies.

Flood Recovery



By Shelley Cobau,
flood recovery manager

The Flood Recovery Team is entering 2016 with a full staff. We have two project managers, a construction observer, a grant administrator, a stormwater maintenance worker and a flood recovery manager — all paid for with grant funding from the Colorado State Department of Local Affairs.

This team is overseeing numerous projects, continuing repairs to areas damaged in 2013 and by the May-June flood event of 2015; Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) projects; and seeking funds for other recovery projects as funding opportunities happen.

The largest active project is the Wildcat Gulch project. This includes replacement of undersized culverts at Crystal Park Road, along with nearly one-quarter mile of stream restoration along the banks of Wildcat Gulch above the culverts.

Our selected design/build team was able to secure donated culverts

from the city of Colorado Springs, at no cost to Manitou Springs, and is working to complete the CDBG-funded culvert portion of the project by mid-February. Workers will immediately begin on the stream restoration portion of this project as soon as the design is approved and contracts are in place.

Staff also is working to coordinate environmental review and clearances on upcoming CDBG projects. They include Williams Canyon Phase III, a

\$795,000 floodwall project near the heart of our downtown historic district, and the Peakview Subdivision Waterline Replacement Project, a \$488,000 project to install fire hydrants in the

area and replace undersized water mains.

These two projects will include significant public outreach to gather ideas and keep residents and business owners informed as plans are developed and as construction begins. Staff will contact area residents and coordinating site-specific meetings in the coming months.

Because we value your input and expertise and want to include all residents in the recovery process, we

IF YOU GO

The first of three 2016 flood recovery information meetings will be held 4-7 p.m. Feb. 23 in Memorial Hall, 606 Manitou Ave. The public is welcome to attend to learn more about recovery progress and future flood recovery projects.



Courtesy photo

Contractors work on the Wildcat Gulch project to improve drainage near Crystal Park Road.

will conduct regular meetings to gather input and keep you apprised of progress on recovery projects. The public is encouraged to attend, as maps and photographs of all in-progress and upcoming projects will be available and project managers will be present to answer any specific questions and hear your comments.

Contracts are being drafted by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for two NRCS projects: Pawnee Canyon, a \$118,000 project to stabilize slopes and channel near where the Intemann Trail crosses the canyon, and Ruxton Walls, a \$67,000 wall revitalization project along

Ruxton Creek where walls were weakened by the 2013 flooding.

As soon as contracts are received, these projects will be designed and placed for competitive bidding through the process required by the funding agency.

Funding has been secured for a total of \$6.7 million in recovery projects to begin in 2016, with staff focus on the outlined projects and managing repairs to areas substantially damaged by the 2015 flooding (including Manitou Terrace and our historic bridges), all while striving to protect our historic city's resources, ambience and character.

Public Services Department



Greg Springman,
public services director

It's been a busy six months here in Manitou Springs since my article in July's newsletter. Along with our regular routine maintenance activities such as water and sewer utilities, parks, streets and facilities, we have some major projects on the horizon.

Below, I'll address the projects focusing on street improvements currently scheduled to begin in 2016.

The Westside Avenue Action Plan is a multi-agency street improvement project which will take place along Colorado/Manitou Avenue in 2016. The Manitou Springs portion of the project will focus on Manitou Avenue from the eastern city arch to the Loaf 'N Jug property, just

east of the Highway 24 junction.

Work will include storm drain improvements, undergrounding of electricity and street improvements such as pavement re-stripping. It will begin with utility undergrounding in late summer 2016.

The Colorado Department of Transportation's Manitou Avenue Overlay project will extend from the Loaf 'N Jug property to City Hall. This project is in the design process and will be solely funded by CDOT.

For anyone who doesn't know, this stretch of Manitou Avenue is CDOT's responsibility to operate and maintain. In 2016, CDOT has budgeted for street and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant improvements along Manitou Avenue from City Hall to the

Loaf 'N Jug property. This also includes improvements on Garden of the Gods Road and the bridge at El Paso Boulevard.

This project is tentatively scheduled for summer 2016. The ADA ramps will be installed with the paving overlay portion, starting sometime after September 2016.

The final project I'll note is the 2015 Streets Overlay project, which includes asphalt overlay improvements to Cliff Road, Duclou Avenue, Sutherland Road, Via Maria Theresia, Bevers Place, Osage Avenue and El Monte Place. This will be a city-managed project and funded by the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA). We have already started on this project, which will be completed as weather allows.



Courtesy of Westside Avenue Action Plan

These images show the Columbia Road/West Colorado Avenue intersection as it is now and the vision for its future. The West Avenue Action Plan calls for new traffic lights, sidewalks, a trail underpass and bicycle lanes, among other upgrades.

These three projects are just a few examples of the work scheduled to start in 2016. I would like to thank all

residents throughout our great town who continue to remain patient as we tackle these larger projects.

Manitou Springs Fire Department



By John Forsett,
fire chief

The new year can represent a time for reflection over the previous year and enable us to recognize through introspection how we choose to pursue future investments. For many, this culminates in the widely accepted practice of creating new year's resolution(s). For anyone doing this, I hope that you are committed and well on your way to success.

For the Fire Department, 2016 will usher in a renewed commitment to excellence and service to our community. Our strategic and budgetary goals are both aligned to focus on the safety of our firefighters and the community through comprehensive training opportunities, additional equipment and personal protective gear.

In addition, we intend to talk to you, our neighbors, at length during 2016 about building a training and storage facility to support our operations. We presented project information and preliminary designs to City Council at the Jan. 12 Council work session (see the Jan. 14 Bulletin, page 1).

2015 was a busy year for your firefighters. We responded to 1,117 total emergency incidents, (many were

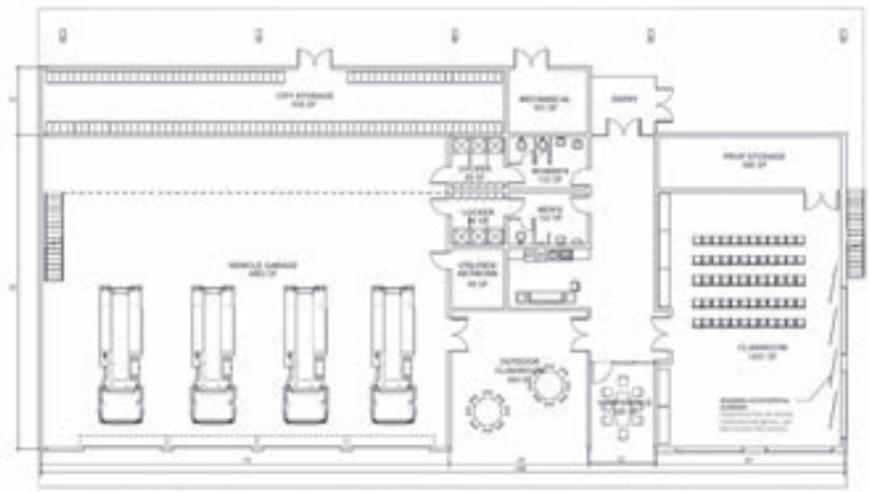
on the Incline, which during the first three days of 2016 added four alarms to our tally).

We have seen many improvements to our operations, particularly in the area of training. The fire department continues to develop a training cadre of valuable personnel who, during the past year, provided 165 classes totally over 750 hours of training offered to our firefighters.

In addition to training for and responding to emergency incidents in 2015, your Fire Department also either led or assisted with events that included: the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, 4th of July Fireworks, the Homecoming Parade, bonfire and related activities, Muscular Dystrophy Association collections and Chili Cook-Off fundraisers, Toys for Tots, holiday food baskets for the needy, holiday dinner, Emma Crawford Coffin Races, Down Syndrome Buddy Walk, Fire Prevention Week and Open House, and Santa at the Town Clock.

The men and women of the Manitou Springs Fire Department look forward to a great 2016. We are proud to provide our citizens and visitors a tradition of excellent public safety service.

Thank you for your continued support and know that it is valued and appreciated.



FIRST LEVEL PLAN
Images courtesy of the Colorado Center for Community Development
The design for the proposed Fire Department training facility includes storage space, classrooms and a garage with space for four vehicles.

Manitou Pool & Fitness



By Roy Chaney,
aquatics director

The pool & fitness center had a good year in 2015. Patrons continued to enjoy the ozone-sanitized pool and spa while participating in our American Red Cross public lessons, after-school/daycare lessons, aqua-aerobics, private adult swim lessons, private children's swim lessons, weight training/fitness classes and health classes such as CPR, first aid and lifeguard training.

Regular maintenance continued throughout the year with the following special projects: The Boy Scouts donated wood and replaced our fence around the facility, a drain clean-out was installed to prevent future plumbing issues and maintenance costs and, as of this submission, the beams above the pool are being rust-proofed and painted.

In 2015, the Colorado Torpedoes, which train in Manitou, made a significant impact in Colorado by sending two swimmers to Juniors Nationals. Veronica Morin and Emily Dolloff-Holt competed

POOL NUMBERS, 2015

Total memberships fluctuated through the season, with a high of 110 in January to a low of 94 in November.

Attendance for the year in each area:

- Lap swimmers: 1,772
- Aqua-aerobics: 6,079
- Parties: 5,262
- Public swim: 6,616
- Programs (swim team, lessons, CPR): 21,180
- Weight/fitness: 6,362

Total patrons using the Manitou Pool: 56,591

in Austin, Texas, with the top 1 percent of the fastest swimmers in the western United States.

The team qualified four athletes for the Western Sectionals, as well, and continues to support the high school team with several girls breaking the Colorado 4A record in the 200 medley relay. The team has 95 swimmers, with more than 70 percent hailing from the Manitou area.

Our American Red Cross lessons also experienced a great year. The instructors have done an outstanding job teaching more than 1,000 children to swim.

This year, we received a \$5,000 grant from the USA Swimming Make-A-Splash Foundation to offer reduced or free lessons and/or punch cards to those struggling financially.

We still have some funds available and if you qualify (free or reduced lunch), you can still receive this benefit. Email rchaney@comsgov.com for information.

Aqua-aerobics and fitness programs are doing well. Several classes are offered every week for beginners and experienced swimmers. Aqua-aerobics instructors are: Sandra Campbell, Ellen Rome and Mickey Simpson. Wilfredo Lopez continues to offer fitness classes with Beyond Fitness, and yoga and core training are also available each week.

For more information on any of our programs or pool schedules, call 685-9735 or visit www.manitoupool.com.

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current. This year's model is a red triangle.

Just a reminder, the city can accept credit card payments via the Internet and over the phone, through a

company called Xpress Bill Pay.

Utilities customers also can set up auto-pay through a credit card online and not have to worry about making that payment by the 21st of the month

or face a \$10 late fee on the 22nd if they forget or are unable get to a computer or phone.

If you don't want to receive the Utilities bill postcard you can go

paperless and have your bill emailed to you. Go to www.xpressbillpay.com for more information.

See page 9 for information about paying parking tickets.