



SECOND
QUARTER
2017

CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS NEWSLETTER



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City of Manitou Springs

By Mayor Nicole Nicoletta

Shortly after becoming mayor, it was clear to me that our official city boards had roles and responsibilities/ordinances that were outdated,



Nicole Nicoletta
Mayor

causing confusion among Council, staff and board members. I decided it was necessary to hold facilitated meetings that would help us update

ordinances and get all of us on the same page regarding process and roles and responsibilities.

Over the course of nearly two years, we've had trainings and facilitated meetings with board members and staff. We're now finishing up facilitated meetings with a local firm, KezziahWatkins, aimed at adding specific language to the ordinance per each board's focus: Open Space Advisory Committee,

Park and Rec Advisory Board, Housing Advisory Board and the Transportation and Parking Board.

Each board will have to adhere to a variety of standard procedures, such as protocol and motion making. The facilitated meetings helped with determining specific tasks for each board. The city is paying for facilitation and pizza for each meeting.

On Aug. 22, we will hear the outcome of these meetings. People who want process just need to look around; it's everywhere.

Nearly two years to allow board members to process, discuss and debate what they think is their role in the city.

It's been a long process, but one that was overdue and will set the stage for future board members, staff and Council.

Additionally, I proudly sit on the Pikes Peak Area Council of Govern-

ments executive director search committee. We've hired a search firm and are nearly done hashing out the candidate profile.

The importance of my role on this committee is to ensure that our town, as well as other rural towns, has a voice at the table. I love Colorado Springs; I was born and raised there

and know quite well the importance of Manitou's relationship with our regional neighbors.

I know that sometimes small towns are lost in the mix of so

much going on in the Pikes Peak region. I will always be a voice for Manitou as will my alternate, Councilor Jay Rohrer.

The second phase of the Aquifer Study is well underway; we will soon have more information and data on our Karst Aquifer. Our gratitude goes to the Shoemaker Firm, Public Services, the Mineral Springs

Foundation and the one and only Dave Wolverton

I believe it will not be long before our aquifer is seriously considered part of our historic and cultural heritage and, therefore, recognized by state and federal historic organizations. Joanne Garrison deserves recognition for her tireless efforts in getting the aquifer recognized as a historic asset. Thank you, Joanne and Dave, for your committed efforts to the Mineral Springs.

Community engagement abounds. Look around, notice the great shape we are in as a city. Notice the detailed community activism taking place in Manitou Springs.

Please consider enlisting as Manitou's representative on the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority. Also, David Walker will soon step down as Manitou's rep on the CAC for the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, so we will need a rep for that as well.

All are welcome to apply; please reach out to me or Donna Kast, our city clerk.

TO VOLUNTEER

Contact Nicoletta at
nnicoletta@comsgov.com or
685-2555; contact Kast at
dkast@comsgov.com or
685-2554.

City Administrator

By Jason Wells

Greetings, Bulletin readers! Heading into the height of this summer, I feel privileged to be concluding my third full year serving as our wonderful city's city administrator.

Having served in this profession for nearly 10 years total, I find that when people ask me exactly what a town/city manager/administrator does, I still struggle to provide them with an adequate "nutshell" response that is, at the same time, comprehensive in nature. The difficulty in doing so underscores the beauty of my

assignment, in that I truly get to be involved in all things local government and no one day on the job is ever like another.

Throughout each day, it is my job not to serve as the designated issue expert on any one effort underway. Rather, it is my obligation to be knowledgeable and informed enough about pretty much everything your municipality is engaged in so I can speak about it coherently and competently to a myriad of interests.

These interests regularly include other staff members, City Council, external contacts such as state/federal agency representatives, the media,

appointed advisory board members, community group members, visitors to town and, certainly, any interested members of the public.

If I am unable to respond immediately to the questions or concerns any of these stakeholders might submit to me, it's my job to seek out the proper information, engage the right people, etc., necessary to ensure an informed system of governance.

Whether walking, driving or even coffin-racing through town these days, it's impossible not to notice the flurry of physical activity afoot. With a substantial amount of fire and flood

mitigation work still occurring, multiple street, sidewalk and bridge rehabilitation projects underway or soon to start and increased seasonal events and visitation conflicting with all the above, the impact of these conflicts on residents, business owners and tourists is not lost on us at the staff level.

Trust that challenges relating to traffic, parking, historic preservation and even the simple quiet enjoyment of our beautiful mountainside home are always heavy on our minds as we set about planning how each new

See ADMINISTRATOR/page 5

City Clerk/Human Resources Department



By Donna Kast, city clerk

I am pleased to announce that a staff member has been added to the city clerk/human resources department. Her name is Sandra Harris and she is serving as our new administrative assistant.

Sandra is a welcome addition to the department. She comes with more than 15 years of experience in administrative support and office management. Her previous position was as an administrative assistant/human resources representative at a nonprofit school for developmentally disabled students.

During her years at the school, Sandra provided support to the director, teachers and staff. Her duties included serving as the school's main point of contact and overseeing daily office operations. She maintained student and personnel files, processed reports, conducted employee orientations and provided customer service.

Before working for the school, Sandra worked for insurance, investment and real estate firms. She also ran a successful Avon business, something she continues to do.

Sandra earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences and a bachelor's in sociology with a minor in psychology. She graduated magna cum laude.

In her free time, Sandra is a foster volunteer with the Humane Society and volunteers for special events at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. In addition to spending time with her cats, she enjoys nature, movies, listening to music, reading, gardening, camping, cooking and game nights with friends.

Sandra says she is happy to be working for the city of Manitou Springs and is excited about the opportunity to make a positive impact. She is friendly and positive; one of her favorite quotes is "every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day!"

The administrative assistant position was added to help with a backlog of duties and projects that have been on hold longer than desired. Our department has oversight of five areas of responsibility: city clerk, human resources, risk management, Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504 compliance and website maintenance. Much time

is involved in caring for all five areas, and the workload had become more than Richard Parsons and I could handle.

Some of our top priorities for Sandra will be to assist us with full-time office coverage 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, website improvements, organization and digitization of all city records and self-audits of personnel/payroll records. Her assistance will also



Sandra Harris

free me up to address goals and projects I've had to neglect.

So, the next time you're in City Hall, please stop by and say hello to Sandra. She is eager to get to know everyone and would be very pleased to meet you.

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The administrative assistant position was added to help with a backlog of duties and projects.
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ADMINISTRATOR/from page 4

undertaking might best harmonize with another.

Keeping everyone adequately informed with the greatest possible level of detail is also of paramount importance to us. With so many moving parts associated with each of these undertakings — whether fiscal, logistical, regulatory, legal, contractual or otherwise — it's often no small feat for us to keep everyone fully up to speed on each development.

Given the season and the mounting disruptions to daily life in Manitou Springs, I am referring here mostly to the various civil projects the city is completing (or is closely involved in, such as the Westside Avenue Action Plan improvements).

But I think it's worth stressing that, in addition to these inherently observable changes, the city is also committed to less-visible but equally crucial planning efforts. They include contemplating the future of various

public facilities as discussed last week, assessing traffic congestion along the Ruxton Corridor and beyond, the implementation of Plan Manitou and the city's Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan (particularly as it relates to a future creekwalk trail), and improvements at Schryver Park and the Fitness & Aquatics facility.

At the end of the day, though there are certainly a number of very real quality of life impacts associated with much of what you perceive when you navigate town, from the perspective of someone who is charged with keeping up to speed on almost all of it, I feel we have a lot to be proud of in Manitou Springs these days.

Along with everyone else, I am very much looking forward to the days when short-term adversity gives way to a more finished and inviting built and natural environment for us to enjoy together.

In the meantime, for those

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Bulletin file photo

Public Services Director Shelley Cobau and City Administrator Jason Wells, foreground, discuss a diagram during a Westside Avenue Action Plan open house in February.

yearning for more information about any given municipal endeavor, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at jwells@comsgov.com or 685-2626. I'm always happy to discuss matters in whatever level of detail desired.

Finally, in the interest of improving my office's ability to respond to such requests for information, expressions of concern and/or mere desire for greater engagement with the city, I will soon be introducing a new assistant to the

city administrator.

I am overjoyed with the creation of this position. It will not only allow me to better track all city initiatives and assist our departments with their assigned tasks, but also to spend more time actively reaching out to those of you with an interest in your local government. We can explore ways in which we might work together to fix things that are fixable while also taking what might already be great and making it even better.

Planning Department



By Wade Burkholder, planning director

Residents of Manitou Springs, business owners and contractors should know that almost every property project requires a property improvement permit from the city. The city of Manitou is a close cousin to the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department, but we are not the same governing entity.

Permits and plans often need to be filed with both governing bodies. If you are about to begin a home improvement project (no matter how small) always check with the Planning Department in City Hall before beginning any work.

With the terrain in Manitou Springs, often even landscaping projects and, especially, retaining walls will need a set of plans and permits. Work completed without a permit is subject to a late fee of 200 percent of the permit's original cost.

Cy Cushenberry has joined the city staff as code enforcement officer. He has approximately 30 years of experience in real estate, construction and safety inspection experience. He's available to answer questions concerning your project, whether you're a homeowner, contractor or local business. Contact him at ccushenberry@comsgov.com or 685-2609.

Plan Manitou update

The plan is now in implementation phase. Staff members and community partners are moving forward to execute a range of actions from the implementation plan.

Planning for Hazards workgroup: The city received technical assistance from the Department of Local Affairs to work with a consultant team to advance some land-use recommendations from Plan Manitou that will reduce hazard risk. A workgroup of staff and stakeholders held its second meeting on July 13, with a focus on reviewing potential planning tools to reduce risk; prioritizing tools for further development; and approving a stakeholder engagement strategy for the project.

Progress report on Plan Manitou: Planning staff will provide a progress report on Plan Manitou implementation to City Council at the Aug. 15 meeting and seek input on implementation priorities for 2018.

Citizens Advisory

Committee: The CAC met on June 6, the group's first meeting since Plan Manitou adoption. Some highlights of the discussion: the role of CAC in the implementation phase; approach to include community partners who will serve as liaisons with other interested stakeholders and represent Plan Manitou topics; community engagement approach and tools, including adding interactivity to the project website; and engaging new members to fill gaps such as local businesses, schools and spiritual organizations.

Housing Advisory Board

This committee held its first meeting on June 19. The HAB has a full slate of regular members and is seeking one alternate. Planner Karen Berchtold is staff liaison to the committee and provided a presentation on aspects of Plan Manitou



Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

H.W. Houston Construction Co. is ready to work on the Park Avenue bridge.

that are most relevant to the group's mission. The group elected the following officers: Alea German, chair; Dale Latty, vice-chair; and Alan Delwiche, secretary. The committee is discussing an upcoming strategic action plan and established a regular meeting schedule at 6 p.m. second Mondays. All meetings are open to the public.

Cañon and Park Avenue bridge rehabilitation

H.W. Houston has been selected as the contractor for the repair and rehabilitation of these two historic bridges, which serve the downtown core. The contractor started mobilizing for the work on the Park Avenue bridge on July 10.

Work on each bridge is estimated to take about four months, so the Park Avenue bridge should be completed around the middle of October, when work on the Cañon Avenue bridge will start. The work on both bridges should be finished in January, barring any significant delays or issues.

One tree adjacent to the Park Avenue bridge will be removed during the project. Other vegetation will be moved and installed elsewhere in the Soda Springs Park, but the project will provide 2-1

tree replacement and replant any affected vegetation. No vegetation or trees will be removed during the Cañon Avenue project.

Closure of Park Avenue to through

traffic will occur on or about July 24. Residents and business owners who use Park Avenue to access their property will still be able to use the street. There will be limited parking and load/unload area for Soda Springs Park events on Park Avenue, but no public parking once the street closes.

Cañon Avenue will be two-way while Park Avenue is closed and there will be impacts to parking along Cañon so that two-way traffic can be accommodated.

The detailed traffic plan will be available to the public before any closure occurs.

The work on these National Register-listed structures will include "saddling" each bridge, repairing and restoring the stonework, and reconstructing the road surface and pedestrian sidewalks. Construction updates will posted on the city website's home page and disseminated by email

and other methods to keep the community informed.

Anyone with questions or issues can contact the project engineer and manager, Todd Ficken, principal engineer of F&D International LLC, at todd@fdi-one.com or 303-652-3200.

The library expansion

The conceptual plans for the addition to the Manitou Springs Library were unanimously recommended by the Park and Rec Advisory Board and the Historic Preservation Commission, and unanimously approved by the City Council in February. Fundraising needs to begin, but there are currently only two members of the Manitou Springs Friends of the Library, which is important in the fundraising plan being drafted for the proposed Library Expansion.

Volunteers are needed to support the expansion and the other ways the friends group helps the public library. Call the library at 685-5206 or contact Manager Margaret Morris by email at MMorris@ppld.org to volunteer and help the friends see this project to completion!

Incline management

The team is meeting regularly and is pleased to inform everyone that the third and last phase of the Manitou Incline rehabilitation project is on schedule for the end of August through the end of the year. This means the Incline will be closed for hiking during that timeframe.

In the meantime, as summer rolls on, please remember that the Incline is a very strenuous hike and it is crucial to be prepared for extreme conditions or you risk the health and safety of yourself and everyone surrounding you. The rules are in place to protect everyone to enjoy the Incline; please follow them.

Also, the team reminds everyone that rescuing injured people on the Incline can take up to three hours depending on where the injured are located. If you see emergency response officials, please move off the trail so they can get to the injured hiker in a timely manner.

Miscellaneous

Projects are in the beginning stages to continue the Creek Walk Trail through Manitou Springs as well as the continuation of the Ruxton Avenue Use and Impact Study that was completed in fall 2015.

INFORMATION

www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/departments/planning or 685-4398



Bulletin file photo

Lt. Larry Mitchell and Chaplain David Hunting check out Manitou Springs' newest fire truck in November 2016.

Manitou Springs Fire Department

By John Forsett, fire chief

I sit to write this after just leaving the scene of a horrific two-car accident on Highway 24, witnessing the lifesaving efforts of some of the most highly trained, experienced and courageous men and women I have ever known.

These men and women, your firefighters, are routinely placed in some of the toughest situations imaginable, situations that affect both mind and body. They always rise to meet the challenges placed before them.

Driving away from the accident, I reflected on the job that they had just completed: a traffic accident with one fatality and five other serious trauma patients who needed immediate treatment and transport.

To make a difference they worked in small teams, along with Manitou Springs Police officers and American Medical Response crews, to extricate victims using hydraulic spreaders and cutters, tending to victims' injuries, providing advanced life support and basic trauma care to prepare patients for transport via ground ambulances and a helicopter.

As their fire chief, I feel great pride in each one of them and their efforts. Sometimes, however, all that pride comes with an equal amount of concern and sadness. Remember that I mentioned mind and body earlier? Here, I focus on the mind.

Earlier this month your firefighters responded to a terrible and tragic suicide that resulted in the loss of a valued former member of the Manitou Springs Fire Department. Her loss reverberated all across the local emergency responder community.

With a great passion to become a firefighter, this young woman started hanging around the fire department at a very young age, winning the hearts of our membership long before becoming a member herself. Locally, she also worked for a while as a

dispatcher for the city of Manitou Springs.

Firefighting ran deep in her blood and she went on to become a career training director for Cimarron Hills Fire Department and was very active throughout the region, even continuing to provide occasional trainings for our membership.

Because of these recent incidents, I am reminded that our emergency responders don't have to work in a big city to have their heads filled with horrible images and experiences. It happens right here nearly every day.

Sometimes if you just take time to watch or ask questions, you can see that their hearts may be broken after an incident. You can see that they may question their efforts. You can see when they may wonder if they did enough or did the right thing.

Not many people in the world are like your first responders, both fire and police. These people purposely insert themselves into horrific and/or dangerous situations for their community at times when someone may be experiencing the worst day of his or her life.

Unfortunately, this job leaves a responder with some scars, a little baggage in their heads to reward them for their time of service. There's no compensation for being a volunteer. These people do what they do for reasons like camaraderie, to build a career in the fire service and, mostly, to give back to their community.

If you happen to catch one of these people out and about, do me a favor and let them know that their time and efforts are tremendously appreciated.

On a lighter note, how about the Fourth of July Fireworks? One surprise really livened up the

evening! A single firework started several fires after bursting just a few feet after leaving the ground, fires that we haven't seen the likes of since fireworks were shot from Red Mountain.

To ensure that citizens and visitors would never be disappointed on the Fourth, two longtime members of the fire department took it upon themselves several years ago to become trained and certified as fireworks display operators (pyrotechnicians).

Brad Walters and John Nichols work extremely hard to prepare for and execute one of the best shows in

the entire region. I'm sure their efforts were appreciated by all who were able to enjoy the show.

Like this year, the fireworks sometimes create surprises for the fire department. When that one errant firework created numerous small fires all over the hillside, the fire department had already prepared to quickly attack and mitigate these types of occurrences.

Additionally, pre-established resources including firefighters and equipment from Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Colorado Springs Utilities and El Paso County Wildland Team were positioned for quick action. I am grateful for their support each year to make our fireworks display safe and successful.

By now, you've probably heard that the Fire Department will be asking City Council to place a question on the November 2017 ballot to ask citizens to help fund and build a Multipurpose Training Facility at Public Works.

Hopefully, you were able to attend the July 11 presentation regarding city facility needs, and have had many of your questions already answered.

In any event, your volunteers are extremely excited to begin getting the word out to you about how this facility will be used.

Be safe in all you do.

INFORMATION

www.msvfd.com or 685-1444



Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency



By Sara Hartley, director

The Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency team is comprised of two project managers, a construction observer, a hazard mitigation and resiliency manager, and a grants administrator, all of whom are grant-funded.

This team is overseeing numerous projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant and Federal Emergency Management Agency and city funds.

We continue to seek grant funding for recovery/resiliency projects when those opportunities arise. All of these projects are assisting in recovery efforts and helping the city of Manitou Springs become a more resilient community.

The Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency team recently collaborated with Team Rubicon on the FEMA-funded Manitou Terrace project. Team Rubicon is a volunteer organization comprised of military veterans who are committed to assisting with disaster recovery efforts.

The city received federal funding to acquire the property at 18 Manitou Terrace, remove the structure and stabilize the slope. This is a four-phase project, as shown below:

1. Demolition of the structure's interior, donating all salvageable goods to Habitat for Humanity. This phase was complete with the assistance of Team Rubicon.

2. Demolition of the remainder of the structure's frame. A request for bid will be released the end of July, with work beginning by the end of August.

3. Engineering analysis of the hillside, determining what measures need to be taken for slope stabilization. The engineer will determine if

retaining walls should be removed or remain intact. Engineering analysis will be completed while we are procuring the demolition contractor.

4. Slope stabilization, with the request for bids released upon receipt of the engineering analysis.

Approximately 30 Team Rubicon volunteers began work the morning of July 8 and completed it by noon July 9. We have partnered with Team Rubicon on previous projects, and we are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful organization offer its assistance as we work on completing our disaster recovery projects.

The Williams Canyon Phase III project began the week of July 17. Please note that traffic and parking will be impacted near Soda Springs Park. We are working closely with the parking department to see how we can accommodate event and

vendor parking for performers and vendors near the Soda Springs Pavilion.

Lastly, the Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Department is committed to community outreach, so we will have a table set up at the weekly community markets. Please stop by, ask questions/give suggestions and get to know our staff.



Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

The Williams Canyon flood channel is doing its part to protect Manitou.

Although we're transitioning from the recovery process to the resiliency/sustainability path, we understand that the recovery process is daunting for everyone (residents, business owners, tourists and staff) and we want to be available to help you understand that process.

Because we value your input and expertise and want to include all residents in the recovery and resiliency process, we will continue to hold project-specific meetings and semi-annual meetings to gather input and to keep you apprised of progress on recovery/resiliency efforts.

The public is encouraged to attend the public meetings, 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.

The next semi-annual meeting will be scheduled for September, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

INFORMATION

www.manitouspringsgov.com/floodinfo
or 685-2566

Manitou Springs Police Department



By Lynn Lee, Restorative Justice coordinator,
and Joe Ribeiro, police chief

The Manitou Springs Police Department, in cooperation with the Manitou Springs Municipal Court, helps facilitate a healing program that supports our community's commitment to not only holding accountable those who have wronged others, but also helping crime victims heal and reducing repeat offenses.

Since 2008, the Manitou Springs Restorative Justice Project has served as a liaison for those who have experienced conflict or harm in the Manitou Springs community with their families, community members and victims. When those who have been charged with an offense accept responsibility, feel remorse and wish to repair the harm to the victim and community, we arrange for them to meet face-to-face with an experienced facilitator to determine how to

“make it right.”

All parties reach an agreement through consensus, and the Restorative Justice facilitator works with the offender to complete the agreement. As an alternative to prosecution in the criminal justice system, a successful restorative justice process may result in dismissal of charges so the person who offended avoids having a criminal record.

The Manitou Springs Restorative Justice Project is a collaboration among the municipal court, police department, the prosecuting attorney and the Manitou Springs community. Community

volunteers are a vital part of the process, bringing an understanding about how an offense affects the Manitou Springs community.

Referrals can also be made through individuals in the community who wish to solve a conflict with family, friends, neighbors and/or coworkers. We have seen approximately 400 cases, with most being

resolved and the parties expressing satisfaction with the outcome.

If you'd like more information or would like to volunteer in Restorative Justice, please call 640-1650.

During the city's 2017 budget cycle, City Council authorized funding to support a downtown police foot patrol 10 a.m.-8 p.m. every day during the summer. The MSPD, in partnership with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, provides an officer or deputy working overtime to accomplish this goal. We have been very fortunate to have filled this beat primarily with MSPD officers.

In 2016, Council also implemented an ordinance to improve pedestrian access downtown.

Our diligence with the foot patrols, paired with an ordinance that allows fair enforcement when someone is obstructing our sidewalks, has significantly improved the “feel” of the downtown compared with previous years.

As is always the case, the MSPD is just one part of the overall effort to maintain a safe city. If you see suspicious or criminal activity, please call our Dispatch Center at 390-5555 immediately. If it is an emergency, call 911.

“Community volunteers are a vital part of the process.”

Finance Department



By Rebecca Davis, finance director

The Finance Department continues to provide accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, utility billing, financial management, business licensing and tax administration services for the city.

Sales tax for 2017 is performing well and is 13.4 percent better than this time last year. The state collects sales tax and receives monies two months after the month the sales tax was collected. This means the city has just received May's sales tax.

The increased sales tax over previous years has enabled the city to continue providing grant matches for the ongoing resiliency projects that are being 75 percent funded by the federal government. We also provide the Urban Renewal Authority \$443,500, for January through May, as per the development plan approved in 2007. The URA was created to redevelop the area along Manitou Avenue, east of Highway 24 to the arch.

On Tuesday, July 11, an open house was hosted at City Hall for funding requests for several large capital projects. If you were unable to attend, the

chart explains the projects and the forecasted mill levies that would be required for each one.

In answer to a recent inquiry about why the city uses postcards for Utility billings, it's because, comparing the cost of mailing a postcard versus an invoice in an envelope, the savings from using the postcard (and the lower postal rate) is too great to ignore.

For the meantime, we will continue to use postcards for utility billings. We realize that the small size can mean that they get mixed up with junk mail and, unknowingly, misplaced. Please remember that the utility bills are created on the last working day of the month and if you have not received your postcard bill by the end of the first week of the next month, please call Dorris, the city utility clerk, at 685-2579 and she will happily tell you the amount you owe.

Also, if you are experiencing hardship, as per Municipal Code section of 13.16.070, section D., "in cases of hardship, the Finance department is authorized to enter into repayment agreements and when such an agreement is in effect, water service may be continued."

INFORMATION

www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/departments/finance or 685-2548

This means if you have an exceptional high water bill due to a leak or can't make a month's payment, you can enter into an agreement with the city to spread your payment out over several months, on top of your regular water bill, to make that payment more manageable. Please call Dorris, 685-2579, for more information.

As always, at any time you can start paying your water/sewer bill through www.xpressbillpay.com, which also allows you to check your account balance online.

In fact, you can sign up to receive your bill both online and in the mail (or go paperless and just review your bill online).

Then you can pay online, come into the office to pay, drop off your payment in the drop box in front of City Hall right next to the Colorado Springs Utilities drop box, or set up an automatic bill pay using either an e-check or a credit card with Xpress Bill Pay. Or you still have the option of mailing your payment.

MILL LEVY FOR THE PROPOSED MUNICIPAL PROJECT

Estimated cost of project:	Description of project and proposed mill rate for repayment of 20-year debt issuance, with a 3.5 percent interest rate:	Tax for \$300,000 market value home per year:	Tax for \$300,000 market value commercial property per year:
\$2.4-\$3.75 million (mill levy is based on the higher estimate)	Fire Training Facility Planned to address the Manitou Springs Volunteer Fire Department's training needs; will also provide some city records storage and serve as an emergency operations center in times of flood or other disaster situations.	3.9943	\$86.28
			\$347.50

Editor's note: City Council voted at its July 18 meeting to place the Fire Training Facility on the ballot. Initially, four projects were proposed, but the Library expansion, Hiawatha Gardens and the City Hall remodel did not make the cut.

Manitou Aquatic & Fitness Center



By Roy Chaney, aquatics director

December 2016 saw the departure of Jarka Jakubova, our facility coordinator. After many years working fulltime, she decided to move on and spend more time with her family. We appreciate her service and will miss her talents and smile at the pool.

However, the good news that we found a new facility coordinator, Vicki Munson, who began working in January 2017. Vicki graduated with a degree in exercise science from Texas State University. She was a lead lifeguard/swim instructor/swim coach at the YMCA and a physical therapy technician.

Vicki interned for the USA Swimming National Team and worked the Olympic Trials in 2016. She is a certified Red Cross lifeguard instructor and Starfish Aquatics swim instructor.

We are excited to have Vicki as part of the pool and fitness center team and know she will have a positive impact with our programs, staffing and pool safety.

The kiddie splash pool and pad is complete. After several weather delays over the winter and spring, we have finally found a stretch of beautiful weather and have completed the project. On June 19, we opened the new pool for business. The grand opening was held July 1 with free swimming; more than 100 participants enjoyed, water fun, food and music.

Since this pool was moved to the building's west side, the old baby pool (on the east) has been converted to an adult (18 and older) hot tub and

sunbathing area. Many of our adult swimmers/exercisers are enjoying this area for a quiet and relaxing break after their workout.

Finally, this fall/winter we will



Courtesy photo

The kiddie splash pool is already a big hit with young Manitou residents.

resurface our bathroom floors with either an epoxy or tile.

Our public swimming lessons, private lessons, poolside yoga, core, Aqua-aerobics and weights/fitness programs are very steady and public lessons have a wait list. We offer a

variety of classes every week, beginners through advanced. The weight room has new Hoist weight equipment and another treadmill.

No matter what your style of training, you can find a perfect balance at the Manitou pool.

INFORMATION

The Manitou Aquatic & Fitness Center is at 202 Manitou Ave.
www.manitoupool.com or 685-9735.

Public Services



By Shelley Cobau, director

Mill and overlay projects, funded by the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, were completed in April. Two more paving projects will begin before November, including upper Pawnee Avenue (Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery, Round 3 funding) and Via Vallecito (single hauler fee-funded).

Thanks to the early release of the requests for bids on all paving projects, lower prices were secured and paving was primarily completed before the Memorial Day holiday.

The Manitou Avenue revitalization project planned from the Ruxton roundabout to Serpentine Drive (Phase 5c), is making progress; the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation for construction funding has been drafted and is under review; and a resolution will be taken to City Council in August asking for formal adoption of this IGA.

The Department of Local Affairs-funded Stormwater Master Plan is approximately 40 percent complete, and public meetings will be conducted to discuss siting of future stormwater facilities; the public is encouraged to attend these meetings.

The Water Distribution System Master Plan is 90 percent complete, with a draft submitted to staff for final

review in early July. Completion of this plan will allow the rate study to move forward and will enable informed capital improvement planning.

The CDBG-funded sidewalk project on Cañon Avenue is nearly completed and islands for plantings have been placed in the Cañon municipal lot.

In addition to these larger projects, the Schryver Park lagoon is now clean and is skimmed weekly by Parks Department staff, the Fields Park tennis courts are freshly resurfaced and the Hiawatha Gardens parking lot is freshly resurfaced and striped.

The monitoring wells in Williams Canyon are being drilled — an effort that will help assess impacts on mineral springs and ensure their continuing health for years to come.

Public Services also has numerous projects coming up, including new roofs for Cheyenne Spring and the cemetery chapel, improve-

ments to the shuttle stop on Ruxton Avenue, masonry work at bridges and city-owned walls and stairs, and a new parking lot for Schryver Park that will be well-lit and beautifully landscaped.

Important things to remember:

Bestway Disposal Service provides residential trash removal service for Manitou Springs residents. This helps reduce traffic and congestion on our streets, and using

“
The public is encouraged to attend these meetings.
”

INFORMATION

www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/departments/services or 685-2573

SAVE THE DATE

Join Concrete Couch, City Council members and city staff in celebrating the completion of the Soda Springs Park pavilion enclosure. 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17.



Bulletin file photos

Above, a city crew works on the Cañon Avenue sidewalk in June. Below, Concrete Couch Director Steve Wood, left, and Ian Jaray work on the wrought iron at the Soda Springs Park pavilion in June.



Bestway is required by ordinance. Bestway also offers bear-proof residential containers; these containers are perfect for discouraging wildlife from foraging in the city.

Mulch and wood are available at no charge outside the gate at 101 Banks Place. Conserve water by applying mulch to your plantings and trees!

Animal control



Please remember, the city no longer issues dog and cat licenses. We've contracted with the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, 610 Abbot Lane. If your pet disappears, please contact the Humane Society (www.hsppr.org or 473-1741) to see if he or she is safe at that facility.

Also, the Code Enforcement office does not take

or oversee animal calls.

Please direct all calls concerning barking dogs or bothersome domesticated animals to the Humane Society via the above phone number or website.

Animal law enforcement officers are empowered with authority by the cities they serve and are recognized as peace officers as directed by

Colorado Revised Statutes.

If you're calling regarding an animal issue after Humane Society hours, please contact dispatch at 719-390-5555.

For larger animals, such as bears, contact the local division of Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 227-5200.