



THIRD  
QUARTER  
2016

# CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS NEWSLETTER

NONPROFIT &  
COMMUNITY EDITION

## City of Manitou Springs

By Mayor Nicole Nicoletta

Saturday, Oct. 15, was my third experience with City Council's annual budget retreat. It went very well, thanks to the many hours that staff, especially Finance Director Rebecca Davis, worked to prepare for it.

Council was given two binders, one that consisted of regularly funded items, such as wages, benefits, equipment maintenance, capital projects, etc. The second binder held memos from each department head, informing us of what additional funds they need and why.

This year, Council has to decide about additional items such as new equipment, additional staff and special projects. We are also tasked with making tough decisions on requests from community partners including the Heritage Center and the Creative Arts District.

I enjoy the annual budget process and thank Council for taking it seriously. I wish we could fund every request, I really do, but that is not the case.

To have the sales tax income we have now and no flood recovery projects, perhaps we could get close to meeting the requests, but we simply don't have the money to do so. Perhaps in a year or two, when the bulk of our budget is not going to flood recovery and mitigation, we will be able to meet the other demands.

People often ask what we are doing with "all the pot money." You will see over the course of the next month that there is no such thing as excess money. Sales tax revenue is definitely up, and so are the city's needs. We will post the budget spreadsheets on the city website ([www.manitouspringsgov.com](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com)) soon for your reading pleasure.



Courtesy photo

The Manitou Springs City Council is, from left, Coreen Toll, Mayor Nicole Nicoletta, Becky Elder, Randy Hodges, Gary Smith, Jay Rohrer and Bob Todd.

Manitou Springs has a great relationship with Mountain Metro for its shuttle services; ridership is up and the Route 3 bus stop shelter will be built by the end of the year.

We will renegotiate our contract with Mountain Metro in the spring, when I will champion some changes

that will accommodate night-time transit riders, enabling people to catch the shuttle from Old Man's Trail into town later than 6 p.m. I'm sorry I didn't catch that last year when we signed the contract.

I hope to see you out and about for Art Attack this weekend!

## Manitou Springs School District

By Ed Longfield,

MSSD14 superintendent and Laurie Wood, director of Partners for Healthy Choices

In the 2016-17 school year, Manitou Springs School District 14 has continued its tradition of providing amazing opportunities for

the students it serves.

This year, Manitou Springs Elementary School has added a violin program for its students. Coupled with last year's brand-new piano lab, MSES students will be exposed to the wonder of symphonic music and begin preparing to fully participate in our strings program in sixth through

12th grade.

Additionally, MSES students now have a hands-on wing at school called the "Collaboratory" where they can experiment, build, design and just "wonder" about art, science and math.

Ute Pass Elementary School has added an exciting instrumental music program this year and has a hydroponics display that is out of this world. Manitou Springs Middle School and Manitou Springs High School are launching the Exceptional Scholars Program that will provide academically rigorous courses, internships, field experiences and customized learning plans for students and parents interested in more academically challenging coursework.

Ms. Amy Rockenbach will direct this program and will serve as a personalized educational consultant for students and families as they

prepare for college and careers.

The district welcomes master chef Vic Matthews, who has put together a new Culinary Arts program for MSHS this semester.

Additionally, MSHS has added a new alternative educational program called the Manitou Abound Program (MAP). Director Ben Gilliam will serve students in alternative ways including outdoor learning experiences, field experiences and student internships.

Finally, the school district would like to welcome back Manitou Springs graduate Ron Hamilton, who has been hired as the new principal at Manitou Springs Middle School. Mr. Hamilton previously served as the principal of Sand Creek High School and has a background in International Baccalaureate programs.

Information: [www.mssd14.org](http://www.mssd14.org).



Courtesy photo

Students rehearse in Elizabeth Lawson's music class at Manitou Springs Elementary.

# Open Space Advisory Committee

By Nancy Fortuin, chair

Is it just me, or do our open spaces keep getting more beautiful? I know I feel privileged to live in a community that places such a high value on those open spaces.

Such a special place deserves to be taken care of, so my fellow committee members and I work hard to preserve and protect those areas for hiking, communing with nature, protecting flora and fauna, and preserving viewsheds.

If you are a regular Bulletin reader, you know we accomplished a couple of milestones this year.

First, we were able to purchase and grant a conservation easement on the 34-acre Black Canyon Open Space on the northeast edge of town.

Second, after a year of planning and drafting, City Council adopted the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan in August. We had strong community support and input for the plan and several themes emerged as priorities that OSAC is addressing.

The first is completion of the Creekwalk Trail. Our planning department worked with the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and obtained funding for the trail's design.

Unfortunately, that funding won't be available until 2018. Consequently, when the Urban Renewal Authority approached OSAC and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to partner on the eastern terminus of the Creekwalk trail, we jumped at the opportunity.

Although we're still very early in the process (pre-decisional), we hope to establish a gateway to the city that can also be used as a demonstration of other priorities identified in the POST plan. Those include signage, lighting and "green" design. Lessons learned from this project can be used as we move into the design phase of the entire Creekwalk Trail in 2018.

Another POST priority is maintenance of our existing assets.

Our city has been almost completely dependent on volunteers to maintain our trails. As such, we are indebted to individuals and organizations such as Manitou Trail CATS, who have performed the bulk of trail maintenance the past couple of years.

However, our trails are being used more heavily, so OSAC has dedicated a large percentage of its 2017 budget

for trail and open space maintenance. We hope to contract with an organization such as the Pikes Peak Conservation Corps to do the work, thereby contributing to the employment of young people who are dedicated to land stewardship.

In addition, OSAC member Nancy Wilson worked with our Fire Department to complete a grant for open space fire mitigation. We'll hear in December if we were awarded the grant, so cross your fingers!

Another central POST theme was collaboration between OSAC and PARAB. Both committees have assigned a liaison to attend the other's meetings to help ensure cross-fertilization of ideas and cooperation on mutual efforts.

The need for signage was identified in POST, and both committees have appointed signage subcommittees.

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 Although POST included several other themes, probably the toughest issue to address is the need for additional city staff dedicated to parks, trails and

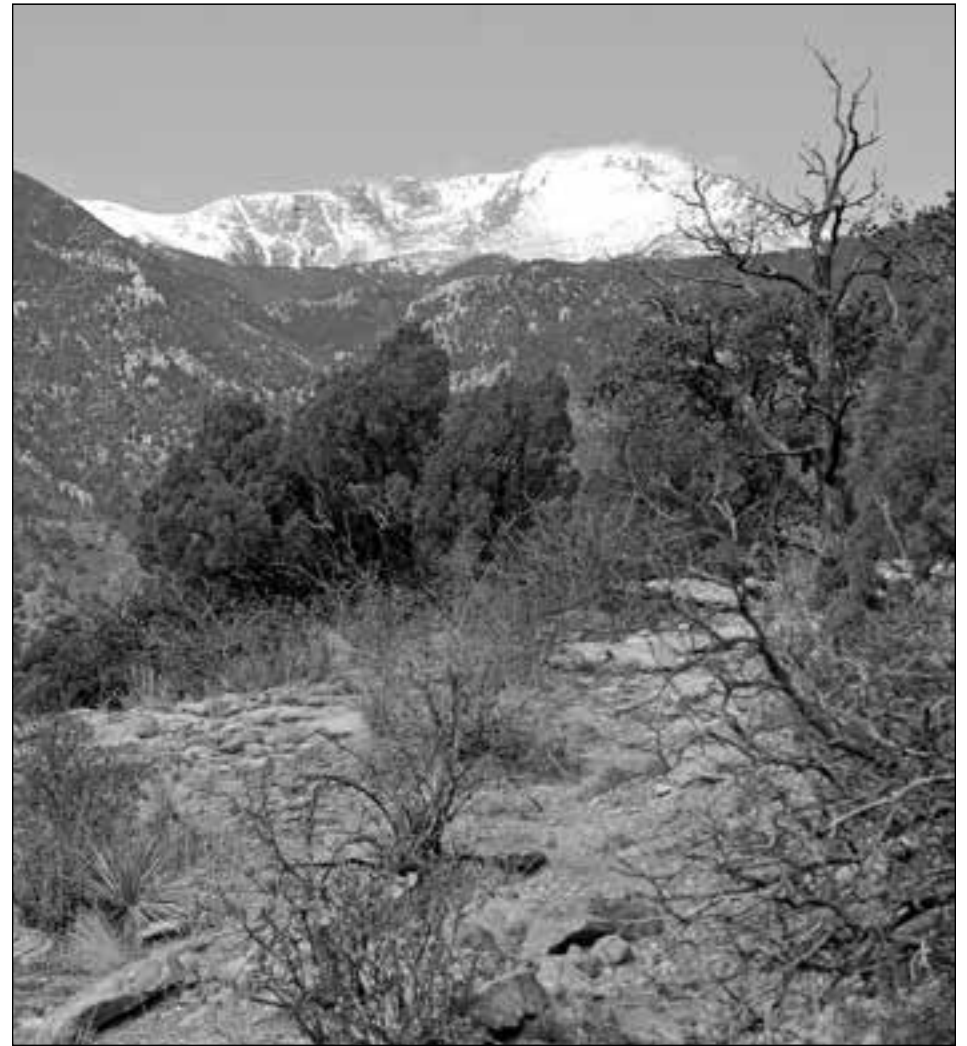
open space. We are a small community and rightfully take great pride in our volunteer accomplishments but there is ample evidence that, throughout Colorado, open space is a tremendous economic driver.

The POST plan has given us a solid community-vetted roadmap for the future. It is extremely ambitious, and we know we don't have the resources to accomplish many of the goals and actions.

However, we're confident that an investment in staffing will go a long way toward implementing the plan more thoroughly and more rapidly. We will continue to look for ways to increase manpower in support of our open space efforts. In the meantime, we are grateful for City Planner Wade Burkholder's outstanding staff support.

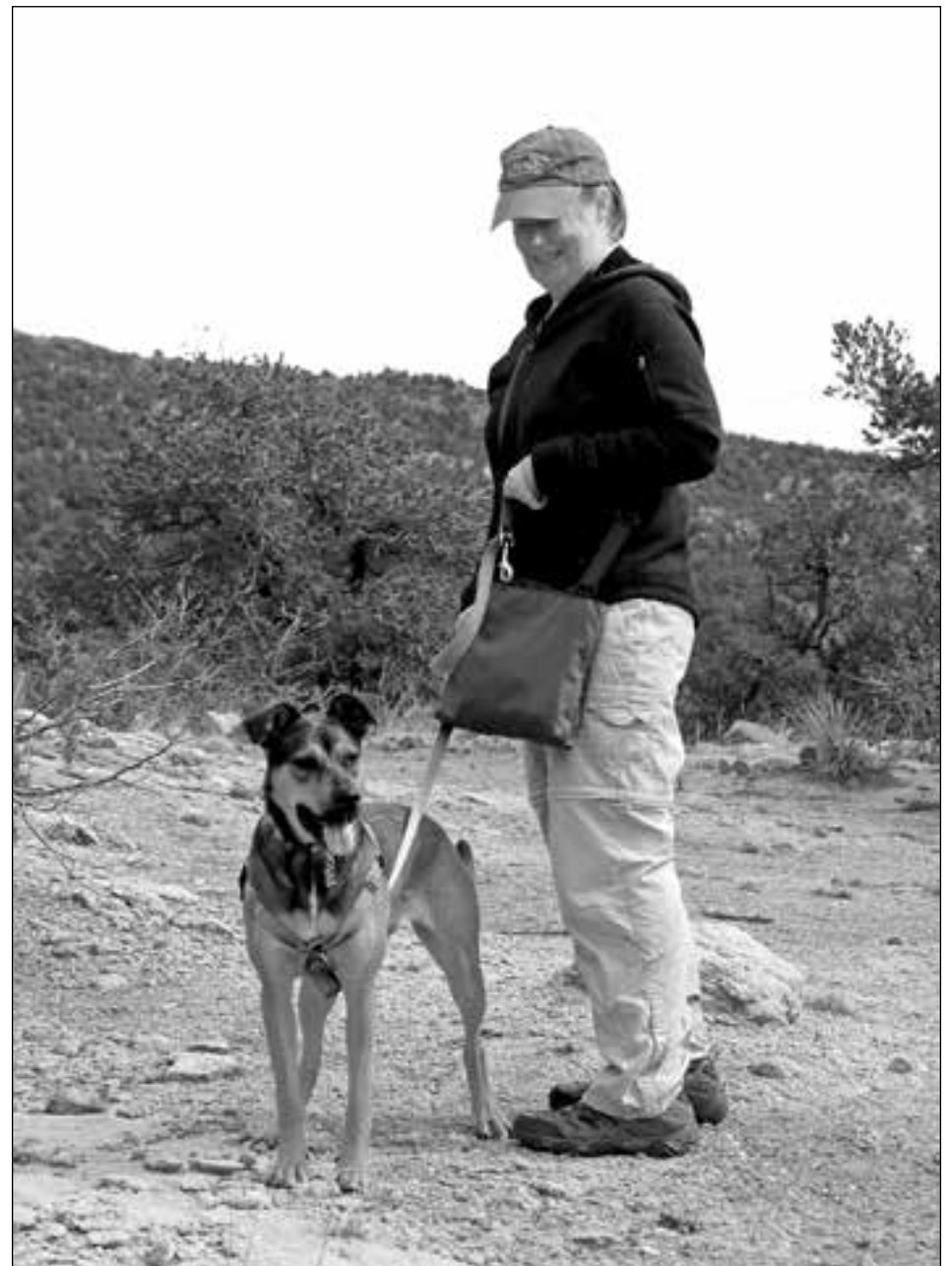
If you would like to review the entire POST plan, you can find it at: [www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/departments/planning/post](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/departments/planning/post).

We always appreciate community input, so if you're interested in open spaces and trails, please join us at our meetings. They start at 6:30 p.m. fourth Mondays in City Hall. We also have an opening for an alternate member. If you're interested, contact City Clerk Donna Kast at [dkast@comsgov.com](mailto:dkast@comsgov.com).



Bulletin file photos

Above, a view of Pikes Peak from the Voth/Black Canyon Road property. Below, Nancy Fortuin, chair of the Open Space Advisory Committee, and her dog Ria explore the Voth/Black Canyon Road property.



# Manitou Springs Collaborative

By Shanti Toll, director

The Manitou Springs Collaborative has been supporting the ongoing process of reviewing our community visions, goals, needs and opportunities. We've been advocating that the old "Manitou Springs Forward: A Vision and Planning Guide" be the foundation of all the new master plans, because those visions were generated by consensus of hundreds of citizens working together and finding compromise.

Now, it's growing into the "Plan Manitou" master plan for community hazard mitigation and community land use.

The final public meeting for Plan Manitou will be 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10 at City Hall. Thank you to all who made the effort to inform the planning and visioning process.

We are also in the beginning stages of organizing the third annual Manni Awards to honor our community volunteers and visionary leaders.

The Manitou Springs Collaborative, in partnership with the city of Manitou Springs, Manitou Springs School District 14, the Chamber of Commerce and the Pikes Peak Bulletin, will recognize people for their ability to engage, collaborate, connect and inspire others. The potluck dinner and award ceremony



Photo by Kaitlyn Cashdollar

Participants in the Manitou Soules event walk along a ledge in Memorial Park while being photographed and filmed.

will take place in January 2017.

The Manni Awards honor the best of our citizens and showcase Manitou's collaborative, creative spirit. Do you know someone who deserves to be acknowledged for going way beyond the call of duty and making our town better?

We are accepting nominations in

the following areas: adult visionary leadership; youth visionary leadership; Rocky's artistic endeavors; lifetime education; environmental stewardship; business and entrepreneurship; public service; health and well-being; and civic achievement.

Please consider nominating people by emailing [Shanti@ManitouCats.com](mailto:Shanti@ManitouCats.com)

with the name of the nominee, the award category, why you're nominating this person, a brief background of the nominee, and your name and contact details.

P.S. If you are interested in participating in the "Manitou Soules" art exhibit, contact [Shanti@ManitouCats.com](mailto:Shanti@ManitouCats.com).

# Manitou Springs Arts Council

By De Lane Bredvik, president

The Manitou Springs Arts Council's mission is to "preserve, promote and pursue collaboration" between the arts and the community of Manitou Springs.

Since 2005, we have administered the Art on the Avenue program, which brings public sculpture to Manitou Avenue. For a stipend, currently \$500, artists place their sculptures on the avenue for a year or longer.

The Arts Council has also purchased five sculptures. The most recent, "Rusty the Snowman," is a public favorite.

Through a process established with City Council approval in January 2007, the Arts Council guides how art is chosen, placed, insured and maintained. We will continue to maintain the Art on the Avenue program and anticipate expanding to the west and east ends of Manitou Avenue as street

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improvement projects move forward. We also support an expanding number of local arts, culture and event programs, such as the Lantern Parade, the Little London Winds, the Chamber Music Festival and the Community Built Association.

Moving forward, the Manitou Springs Arts Council hopes to continue to expand its support for local art and culture programming by sponsoring new events and collaborating with existing organizations. The Arts Council is also an active participant in Manitou's bid to become an official Colorado Creative District.

If you would like to work with us or just

keep in touch, check out our Facebook page, "Manitou Springs Arts Council," and our website, [ManitouSpringsArtsCouncil.org](http://ManitouSpringsArtsCouncil.org).

Please join us in supporting the Arts in Manitou! Your membership fee of \$30 is tax-deductible and we welcome any other donations to your local nonprofit arts organization.



Bulletin file photo

"Rusty the Snowman" welcomes visitors to Soda Springs Park.

# Mineral Springs Foundation

Story and photo  
by Terry Sharpton, president

It's been a busy summer for the Mineral Springs Foundation. A few years back, we began the Mineral Springs Experience, starting with all-new signage at each of the eight mineral spring sites in the city.

Following on that success, we've debuted our new website, the "Journey of a Raindrop" video, new interpretive brochure, updated mineral water-content charts and more.

This summer we emphasized the "Spring-about" tours on Saturday mornings, and helped promote the Sip and Stroll tours Roxanne Eflin led at noon Wednesdays. Both were successful and informative events, and we hope all our guides will be back next year for the Springabouts and that Roxanne continues the Sip and Stroll tours.

Be sure to catch one of these tours next summer — it's a great way to enjoy the mineral springs and learn about Manitou's rich and colorful history.

Over the past year, we were planning the 2016 edition of "Waterfest," which culminated Saturday, Oct. 1, with a full slate of activities including a revival of the Mayor's Cup 5K Walk/Run, a treasure hunt, water tasting, even Water Quidditch.

We hosted speakers from all over the region, rich in knowledge on mineral water, hot springs, health and wellness-related issues, who discussed our very own mineral springs. Many

thanks go out to the task force and organizers who devoted countless hours over the past year to putting this together and making it a successful event.

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We take the wealth of knowledge and information we have gathered this year and move forward with more energy and dedication to our mineral springs. This year, we'll continue with facelifts and upgrades for our great fountains, plus more events and activities celebrating our unique mineral water resource.

Check us out on Facebook and at [www.manitoumineralsprings.org](http://www.manitoumineralsprings.org).



Shoshone Spring has some of the highest amounts of mineral content among Manitou's springs, and is the warmest with a temperature just higher than 70 degrees.

## Friends of Ruxton Canyon

By Jay Beeton, member

Ruxton Canyon residents are celebrating two-plus months of peace and quiet in our stunningly beautiful neighborhood after the Manitou Incline closed for repairs.

Each day we wake to the sounds of Ruxton Creek rather than loud cars, booming voices and bone-rattling sub-woofers.

We can drive our cars and ride our bikes down Ruxton Avenue without getting mired in traffic or dodging hikers in the middle of the street; we can take leisurely strolls along the sidewalk without dodging downhill runners.

Ruxton Canyon is, temporarily, the way it was when most of us chose to live here — before the Incline was legalized.

Sure, our quiet is periodically punctuated by a Cog train whistle, and traffic congestion occurs predictably when a train lets out. But these are minor inconveniences that Ruxton Canyon residents have lived with for 125 years.

Two years ago, when the Incline also closed for repairs, many of us in the canyon realized the full impact the



Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

Traffic on Ruxton Avenue can be bumper-to-bumper at peak times.

Incline had on our neighborhood; we formed Friends of Ruxton Canyon to fight the traffic congestion, noise, general disruption and environmental degradation caused by more than 350,000 Incline users a year.

Since then, we've learned many valuable lessons about how to work productively with local government to first get our elected officials to listen and then to act on behalf of the community they represent. As an

active member of Friends of Ruxton Canyon, I'm thrilled that local government is productively addressing Incline issues.

Most importantly, Mayor Nicole Nicoletta proclaimed in a City Council meeting a few weeks ago that the impact of the Incline on both Ruxton Canyon and Manitou residents is "a quality-of-life issue."

And although many of us know that the canyon will not be as peaceful

when the Incline reopens in December, we know that restricting parking on Ruxton, increasing fines for violators in Residential Parking Permit areas and the increased ridership on the free shuttle are all positive steps.

Much work needs to be done, but we have a City Council that listens and a neighborhood willing to work to preserve what it once had.

Information: [ruxtoncanyon.com](http://ruxtoncanyon.com).