



City of Manitou Springs Newsletter

Flood mitigation projects are funded and ready to go

By Jack Benson
City Administrator

For the city, the first quarter of the New Year is always about ramping up on projects that have been planned during the winter months. These last few months have been no exception and to no one's surprise, much of this planning has been dedicated to positioning ourselves for the upcoming monsoonal flood season. Two major projects have been our focus: 1) Williams Canyon and 2) Fountain Creek.

Much of our effort over the last few months has been directed towards putting the necessary funding in place to successfully launch and maintain these projects, complete the design elements, and get contracts in place. In this regard, there is lot of good news. First, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, through their Emergency Water Protection Program, award the City \$1.9 million to fix drainage structures from the Williams Canyon, Cave of the Winds trail, to the Hwy 24 overpass.

In addition, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Department of Local Affairs added significant match money to the City's contributions to fund this project segment. Along with these funds, the Department of Local Affairs awarded the City an additional \$1.944 million from the State's Mineral Impact Fund. Together, these funds amount to \$5.381 million to cover all three phases of the Williams Canyon/Canon Avenue project.

The next significant project is Fountain Creek. FEMA, through the Office of Emergency Management, Public Assistance Program, has awarded the City \$893,436 to fund emergency debris removal through the entire stretch of Fountain Creek. This project was divided into 3 phases:

1) debris removal of 100 feet in front of and behind the City's bridge abutments; 2) debris clean-up between the remaining stretches; and, 3) lower



the creek down to its original cobble layer (also called the armor layer) to help reclaim the creek's carrying capacity during future storms. As of this writing, phase 1 is complete and the remaining two phases are currently being staged. The expected completion date of this project is June 30th.

With all these planning activities, residents will soon see lots of trucks and construction equipment moving along our streets.

This will ultimately cause some

inconveniences to our day-to-day routine, but I ask all of you to have patience as we move forward with these very important projects. I am sure many of you have questions regarding these projects and to facilitate dialogue, the City will be holding a town hall meeting on April 24th, in Memorial Hall, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This meeting will dedicate a brief session to update everyone on projects in and around Manitou and then move into a question-and-answer session. If you are impacted by flood events or just

want to stay informed, please join us at this meeting.

Lastly, as some of you already know, I have decided to retire and my last day will be on May 31st. I have truly enjoyed working with City Council, staff, and all the citizenry that donate their time to help the City maintain its great character. I will miss Manitou and may very well decide to return, once Sue and I get our retirement loose ends worked out. I wish the best for all of you and hope that the city sees sunny days ahead.

Manitou Springs Police Department

The Manitou Springs Police Department stands alongside our City Council to make the transition to retail marijuana retail sales within our community safe and successful for our businesses, citizens, and visitors. City Council has established regulations for the operation of Retail Marijuana Establishments (RMEs) and ordinances clarifying the City's view of unacceptable behaviors regarding the use of Marijuana. With Council's support, the MSPD is strictly enforcing the violation of the "public use" ordinance. Our goal is to have people understand that, while marijuana may be considered "legal," the standard for Manitou Springs is that its use is not occurring on our streets, sidewalks and parks.

The MSPD's other major concern is that marijuana availability will have an adverse affect on traffic safety in our City. The Police Chief has established the goal of having all of our officers trained to the higher DUI enforcement capability of **Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)**. ARIDE is intended to provide officers with general knowledge related to drug impairment by promoting the use of Drug Recognition Experts. One of the more significant aspects of ARIDE is its review and required student demonstration of the Standardized



Field Sobriety Tests proficiency requirements. The ARIDE program also stresses the importance of securing the most appropriate biological sample in order to identify substances likely causing impairment.

Driving under the influence of Marijuana (or any other impairing substance) is still DUI. PLEASE designate a sober driver!

Crime Prevention Tips: The following may help prevent vehicle break-ins:

- Park in an open, well-lighted, and populated area near your destination, preferably one in view of a security camera. Avoid parking near large trucks, vans, dumpsters, and other objects that obstruct visibility

and provide hiding places. Avoid parking near strangers loitering or sitting in vehicles.

- Hide your vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and any other papers with your home address on them where they are not likely to be found.

- Park in your garage, if you have one. Don't leave your vehicle on the street, in an alley, or on your driveway. If you have to park on a street, avoid dark or isolated areas.

- Turn off your engine, roll up all windows, lock all doors, and take your keys with you even if you are making a quick stop at a store or gas station.

- Don't leave your vehicle in an unattended public lot for an extended period time.

- Install an alarm system that will sound when someone attempts to break in, move, tilt, or start your vehicle.

- Check your vehicle if you hear the alarm sound. Get a good description of the person and call the police.

- Any valuable items which can be removed should be taken with you. If valuables must be left in the car, keep them out of sight. Use mountings that allow you to take electronic equipment with you. Be sure to remove automatic garage door openers from the car.

Finance Report

By Rebecca Davis, CPFO
Finance Director

The first quarter of 2014 has brought some changes to the Finance Department. Finally, after many, many months, we have the new Caselle accounting software fully implemented. You may have noticed that your utility bill from Manitou looks a little different. You can now see when the reads of your water meter were taken, something that was not reflected on the old ADG (our DOS based accounting software) bills. The water consumption reads are taken from around mid-month to mid-month, while the flat rates are based on the calendar month. Soon, we plan to have the system configured to allow you to pay your utility bill online, but we are working to make sure the all the bugs are worked out first (I've discovered that when new accounting software is rolled out, there are always "bugs"). Lately we have been a little slower

taking your payments at the counter, but I'm sure we'll be back up to speed before you know it.

On a personal note, I have achieved a major milestone in my career and am now a CPFO, a Certified Public Finance Officer. This certification is good in both the United States and Canada and awarded by GFOA, the Government Finance Officers Association (Yes, I can throw around acronyms with the best of them).

Also, it's been mentioned to me that I should warn those who pay their utilities by mail to be aware that your payments don't come directly to City Hall, they first take a trip up to Denver (to see the sights?) and then come back down to Manitou. This means they can take longer to arrive than you anticipated. So, if it's close to the due date, please use the convenient drop box located by the front doors of the City Hall Building to ensure you don't receive the \$10 late penalty.

Parks and Rec

By Danu Fatt

Soda Springs Park and Memorial Park remain a focus for the Parks and Rec Advisory Board after the recent floods of 2013 and the Waldo Canyon Fire.

We are in the initial stages of exploring a "swale" design for Soda Springs Park near the restrooms, and re-visiting Phase 2 and 3 designs for the Soda Springs Park Masterplan. It is our goal to minimize damaging impact of future flooding to the park. We are also beginning the process of doing repairs and re-painting the pavilion, looking into solutions for bench replacements for the pavillion, and thinking of ideas to temporarily beautify the west end as we move toward and through the upcoming flood season.

Memorial Park became unreliable to host our Community Artists' Labor Day Weekend Fair as well as a location for other groups and activities. As a result, we have decided to utilize and develop El Paso Fields Park (off Becker and El Paso) as an alternate space for functions and events by adding electrical service. This will also help reduce wear and tear on the grass at Memorial Park. We also installed new black wrought iron fencing to replace the chain link fence by the creek at Memorial Park.

Lastly, we have been working on re-designing the Tot Lot by focusing on it as more of a trailhead/pocket park. We will be surveying the local residents near the Tot Lot to get their input on what they would like to see.

Manitou Springs Public Works Department

Bruno Pothier
Public Works Director

Snow, frigid temperatures, snow, frigid temperatures, then repeat.... Although we were not hit with as much snow as the eastern portion of the US, we received our share of harsh weather. In January and February alone, we used approximately 500 tons of salt and sand. By comparison, last year we used a total of 50 tons of salt and sand, so this is a significant change. Some of you may have seen



improvement in the deicing treatment of the streets as we have switched from our regular 10% salt/sand mix to a new mixture of 7% Slicer/sand mix. The advantage of using Slicer is that it is effective even when temperatures drop below 30° F and stays active much longer than salt. Slicer has proven to be a good choice considering that temperatures have been well below freezing for extended periods of time this year. In addition, Slicer adds only a few dollars to the price per ton. Unfortunately, despite using deicers, the constant freezing and thawing has created an unusual amount of potholes that we are working to fix.

Regarding flood damage and FEMA projects, the City has 20 Project Worksheets approved by FEMA (List posted on the Flood Information page of the city website). Eleven of these projects are now completed and seven more will be completed by mid-April. The remaining two projects are the repair of the flood damaged streets (MANSP09) and the second phase of the debris removal from Fountain Creek (MANSP14V1). In regard to the street repair project, we have been asked by FEMA to obtain competitive

bids, so a Request for Bid was posted. The contractor will be selected at the end of April with repairs scheduled soon after. The second project is for Fountain Creek sediment removal. At each city owned bridge we already removed 100 ft of accumulated debris upstream and downstream for a total of 3000 cubic yards. The second phase of this project will consist of removing an estimated 2 to 3 feet of excess sediment deposited over the original creek bed. This project is more complicated and will take time to implement as we are required to provide a work plan to a number of regulatory agencies for approval, have the creek surveyed and staked for elevation, and

then put it up to bid. Extreme care will also have to be taken to protect what remains of the existing fish habitat structures. We are considering starting this project in late fall as working in the creek during the spring/summer months could be extremely hazardous to personnel and heavy equipment due to the unpredictability of flash flooding.

Other projects, including the repairs to City Hall, are ongoing and should be completed by the end of April. The Waltham Avenue water and sewer main replacement is moving along and should be completed by the end of April as well. The Minnehaha storm drainage will be replaced in April/ May.



Manitou Springs Planning Department

The Planning Department issued 70 permits in February and March for a total of \$11,706.11 in Use Tax with a reported cost of materials totaling \$308,075.53. The figures incorporate 51 residential alterations/remodels and 19 commercial alterations/remodels.

In February, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and the Planning Department had a great turnout at the Open House and have provided the graphics presented during the Open House and the submitted survey results on the City website for reference. The URA will be deciding on next action steps at upcoming meetings.

We encourage you to also take a look at the full Land Use Study Report and let us know what you think. If you have trouble accessing any of the links, or would like to get hard copies of the illustrations or the Land Use Model report, please contact the Manitou Springs Planning Department. A summary of the development

WHAT IF EAST MANITOU SPRINGS WERE TO REDEVELOP?



scenarios may be found with illustrated graphics by visiting: www.manitouspringsgov.com/Departments/Planning.

Additionally, the URA Board has awarded its first façade improvement grant as part of its newly created grant program available to property owners and tenants within the URA district. Up to \$1000 of the total cost of exterior building improvements is available and applications are

welcomed. The first grant will see façade improvements to the building located at 26 Manitou Avenue, please watch for the transformation.

The Open Space Advisory Committee has been working on the Iron Mountain Trail Building Project and is preparing for several volunteer trail building days this spring and summer. The Iron Mountain Trail Building Project will focus on a section of the

Intemann Trail that will connect Manitou Springs to Red Rock Canyon and the trails of Colorado Springs and El Paso County. Volunteer days will run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and all volunteers can register online or by phone through the Manitou Springs Trail CATS at mcats@outlook.com or (719) 321-5354. Organizations sponsoring the trail build days include the Manitou Springs Trail CATS, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Friends of the Peak, and Medicine Wheel.

For anyone interested in serving on a City Board or Commission, the Planning Department has several openings for alternate members to the Historic Preservation Commission, Open Space Advisory Commission, Parking Authority Board, and full Board Members to the Urban Renewal Authority. Anyone interested in fulfilling one of these vacancies please give the Planning Department a call at 719-685-4398 and we can provide more information.

Manitou pool and fitness center report

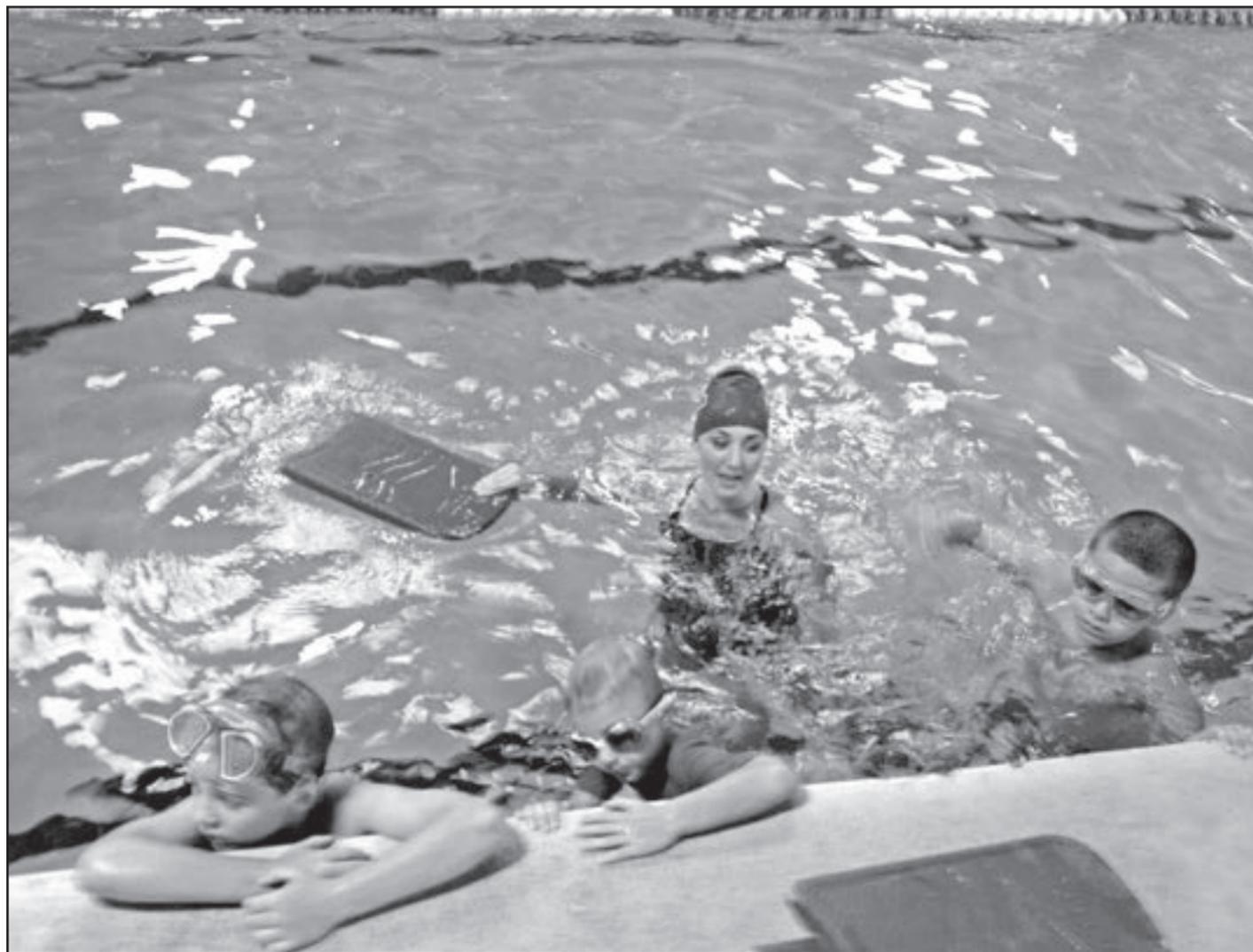
By Roy Chaney
Aquatics Director

The New Year is starting out strong for the pool & fitness center. Participation has increased from last year by approximately 5 percent and membership/punch cards sales are on track. Our fitness and children's classes are doing well. The New Yoga, Core, and Adult Swim Team programs have seen steady increases in attendance. Fitness classes, the Children's Swim Team, and swim lessons are maintaining good numbers and growing in popularity. The High School Girls Swim Team completed one of their best seasons to date, breaking most of the pool and high school records, and winning the league championships.

The following facility maintenance was performed:

- Replaced belts on air exchangers.
- Sanitation of the deck, seating areas and bathrooms.
- Begin baby pool maintenance for summer opening.
- Repaired chemical automation unit.
- General weight equipment maintenance.

Come check out some of our



programs that include:

- Swim Lessons University (Private & Group lessons)
- Aqua-aerobics
- Lap swimming and open swim in our OZONE pool
- Relax in our ozone hot tub
- CPR, First aid and lifeguard

training

- Colorado Torpedoes Age Group Competitive and Wild Blue Racing Adult Swim Team
- Beyond Fitness LLC. Provides weight training/fitness classes at the pools weight room
- Yoga and Core Training

Classes

- Pool parties with party room

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

Manitou Springs now on summer parking schedule

Manitou Springs is now on its summer parking schedule. Paid parking is from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

Here are some tips to navigating the new parking policies:

- Just need to run a quick errand downtown? Put your license plate in at the kiosk and select the 15 minute free option (available 1x a day).
- Make sure you have your license plate number ready when you go to the kiosks to pay for parking. Having trouble remembering your plate number? Take a cell phone picture of it and you'll always have it with you!
- There are several change machines located in downtown Manitou Springs, just in case you forgot to bring some with you to pay for parking! The locations are shown on the downtown parking map available at the Chamber of

Commerce (354 Manitou Avenue), at the Parking Office (606 Manitou Avenue), and at www.manitouspringsgov.com click "Visitors" at the top of the page, then "Parking".

- Off-street permits are now available to purchase for residents, employees and merchants whom live or work in downtown Manitou Springs. Call 719-685-2549 or stop by the Parking Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 606 Manitou Avenue for more information or to purchase one today!

- Staying in town most of the day? Parking in the off-street lots downtown is a maximum of \$5.
- Please remember – park on the street, pay on the street; park in a lot, pay in that lot.
- You can get a cell phone



reminder when your parking is getting ready to expire, and even add to the time from your cell phone. Just put in your cell number at the end of the paid parking transaction and you will get a text message before the parking time is up.

- Want updates and

information on parking? Follow us on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/PARKINGMANITOU> or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MANITOUPARKING>

- Did you pay to park on-street at one end of downtown and now want to move your car to another on-street spot? No problem! You can pay at any on-street kiosk for parking in any on-street space downtown and if you move your car, your paid parking will follow. This doesn't apply to the residential parking area of Ruxton or any of the off-street lots.
- Everyone makes mistakes sometimes! If you think you got a ticket in error, please come see us at the Parking Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 606 Manitou Avenue, call us at (719) 685-2549, or email us as dgagnon@spplus.com.