



CITY OF
MANITOU SPRINGS
NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2018



Ken Jaray

A message from the mayor

I am delighted that the work of Manitou Springs' boards and commissions is being highlighted in this newsletter.

We are very fortunate to have so many people volunteer

to serve our community. These boards and commissions play a critical part of our government, allowing citizens with expertise and interest to help guide and participate in policy decisions.

As part of our effort to strengthen the culture of engagement and collaboration, we are looking forward to further conversations with board and commission members about

how to better define and expand their roles.

Thank you to all who volunteer to serve. You should know that you do make a difference.

Open Space Advisory Committee

By Michael Maio

It is a pleasure to report Open Space Advisory Committee is on the move in Manitou Springs. As OSAC's newly appointed chairman, I would like to take a moment to thank all our committee members who have helped drive our progress this past year and into the first quarter of this year: Vice-Chair Nancy Wilson, Secretary Sheryl Cline, longtime committee members and volunteers Sue Graham, Gary Michels, Marc Straub, Shannon Solomon and our alternate members, Kym Littleton and T.J. Maltese.

Also, a special thanks to our staff adviser, Planning Director Wade Burkholder, and Councilor Becky Elder, our City Council liaison. Finally, I want to thank Councilor Nancy Fortuin, who had the vision and courage to take on new challenges and bring us to this point.

As we continue into 2018, our city's Parks, Open Spaces and Trails Master Plan (POST) is OSAC's guiding light for the development, protection and maintenance of our town's natural assets: its trails and open spaces.

The planning and development of our Manitou Springs Creek Walk is OSAC's No. 1 priority project at the moment. Creek Walk will become our town's premier linear trail connecting the Midland Trail in Colorado Springs and Rainbow Falls on the city's western edge.

OSAC provides both support and planning for the project. The trail will be built in phases and eventually will



Courtesy of OSAC

Manitou's location in the center of undeveloped land makes the city vulnerable to natural disasters.

provide non-motorized transportation through our town while providing splendid views of Fountain Creek.

Officials have identified about \$1.5 million in funding for the project, including money from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority and a \$100,000 grant from the Colorado Springs Health Foundation. The city has hired a landscape architectural firm to help design the trail.

OSAC recently completed an inventory of signage on the city's trail system to identify new signage locations. After reviewing the current trail signage, OSAC identified a need

for improved directional, destination and interpretive signage. To address the issue, the city has contracted C+B Design to develop strategies for the project.

Lastly, we encourage all citizens of our community to help protect our town's open spaces and trails.

It has come to our attention that active illegal campsites with fire pits are starting to appear off our trails, especially along the town's southern flank on Eagle Mountain and Red Mountain, as well as other scattered locations.

The Manitou Springs Police

Department has recently identified many of the illegal campsites through its Locate, Enforce, Eradicate and Prevent (LEEP) program. Chief Joe Ribeiro has spearheaded the effort to control the spread of these camps on public lands but needs the community's help to control the influx of illegal campsites and the possibility of unintentional wildfires.

If you detect any such illegal campsites on the city's public lands and open spaces, please contact the Manitou Springs Police Department at 685-5407 or e-mail Michael Maio at michaelmaio@msn.com.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

By Danu Fatt

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board continues to identify and pursue projects and goals, evaluate and recommend policies that impact our parks, value our environment and advocate for the well-being of our forestry assets.

PARAB also continues to advocate for more experienced seasonal help to assist our limited city staff in caring for our parks, gardens and trees, and to develop working partnerships with community groups, city boards and staff, and the school district.

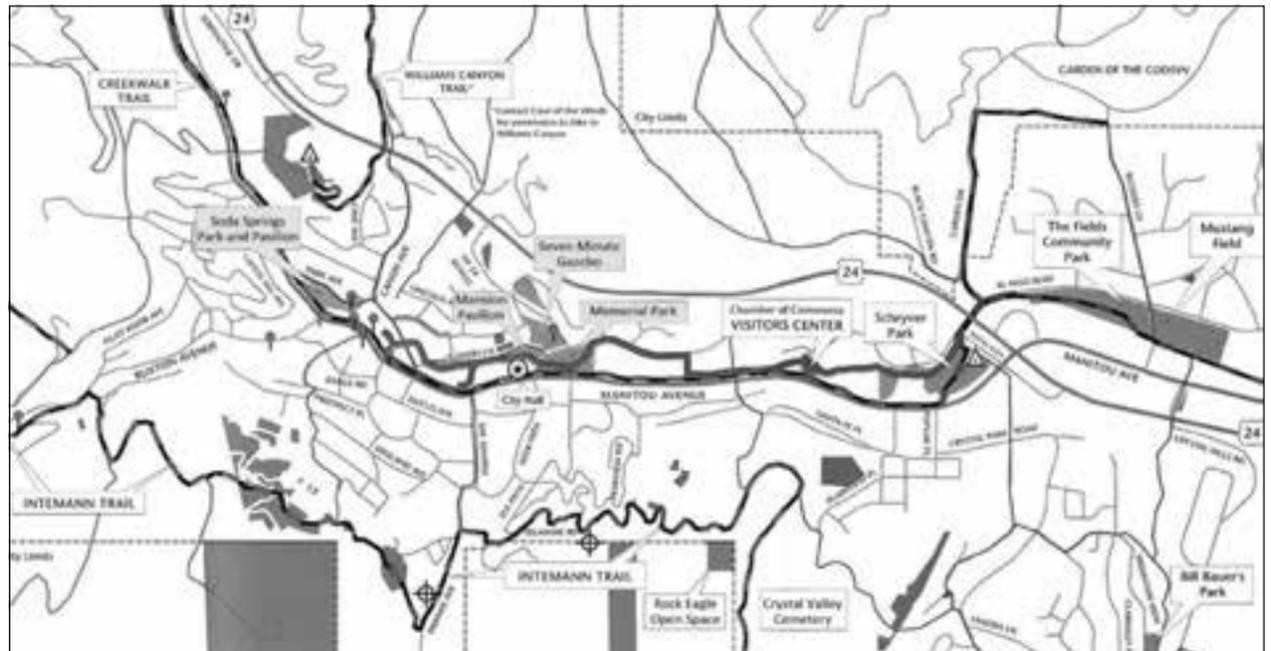
We will soon present a draft of our Organic Land Management Policy to City Council, with the support of the Manitou Springs Pollinator Project and the Manitou Garden Club. By adopting this OLM policy, the city protects the natural environment and our health, and fulfills one of the goals in the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan, as well as Plan Manitou.

Current projects include researching the needed components to develop an urban forestry plan that can be implemented and tailored to each park while using our resources wisely. We have met with foresters from the Colorado State Forest Service and they shared a structure that could be used to create a forestry plan and to consider creating a tree ordinance.

A follow-up workshop will be scheduled sometime in June during which we will, with the foresters' help, participate in a tree identification survey using a geographic information system tool to input tree data.

PARAB also is exploring the possibility of creating a Tree Board, determining how it could be integrated with the city and PARAB.

“
Current projects include researching the needed components to develop an urban forestry plan.
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Courtesy image

It takes a lot of effort to care for this much park acreage.

We are also participating in the Creek Walk Master Plan and city signage efforts, and working with the Planning Department and Manitou Springs Middle School Design Manitou program to develop a study in park planning for Ute Chief Pocket Park.

Exploring options for other outdoor recreational opportunities for “older” folks and creating new ones has also been part of our dialogue.

Manitou's Cub Scout Pack 18 will have a cleanup and planting day at Mansions Park at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 5. They will plant pollinator plants with help and input from the Pollinator Project, the Garden Club and city staff. This

volunteer effort is open to the public to join in.

We had hoped that, around this time, there would have been plans to implement the Soda Springs Master Plan II (the west end) through a Great Outdoors Colorado grant that PARAB applied for last year. Unfortunately, we were not awarded the grant, and will look at reapplying in the fall.

PARAB continues to look forward to be the best stewards of our natural resources and advocates for recreational opportunities within our community. We cannot do it alone.

GET INVOLVED

PARAB meets at 6 p.m. first Mondays in City Council Chambers, 606 Manitou Ave. Information: www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/city-boards/parab.

Manitou Springs Women's Club

By Annie Schmitt

Since 1937, the Manitou Springs Women's Club has been contributing to the community via fundraisers, organizing town beautification projects, heading up blood drives, selling war bonds and creating local scholarships — just to mention a few of our endeavors!

Our 2018 annual silent auction/white elephant and bake sale was a huge success! We raised more than \$2,000 at our monthly lunch on April 2 in City Hall. The board will decide at its April 30 meeting what worthy local cause will receive the funds.

We'd like to thank the 56 generous community members who donated almost \$4,000 worth of goods and services:

Mavi Turkish Imports, Gigi's Animal Lovers Store, the Keg Bar and Grill, Mountains West, Good Karma, Goldminer's Candy, Anna's Apothecary, the Garden of the Gods Trading Post, the Whickerbill, the Olive Tap, the Ten Spot, Salus, the Bear Cave, Theo's Toys, D&D Liquor,

Brazen Bee, Craft, Piazza Navona Gallery, the Cotton Club/Manitou Cactus, the Leprechaun Shoppe, Border Burger, La Henna Boheme, LeGrande Accents, Lane Mitchell Jeweler, the Jerky Store, the Avenue Hotel B&B, the Manitou Springs Heritage Center, Create Café, Briarhurst Manor Estate, Savelli's, SunWater Spa, Laurie Wood, Manitou Springs Aquatic and Fitness, Mo's Diner, Adam's Mountain Café, Amanda's Fonda, the Mason Jar, Walmart, Dunkin' Donuts, Texas Roadhouse, Rudy's Little Hideaway, Bristol Brewery, Rudy's BBQ, Mountain Man Dave, Keithley Pines Historic Cabins, Annie Schmitt, Charles Rockey, Gretchen Wieshuber Jewelry, the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, Sallie Knox Hall, Lola Borealis, Zac Abbott, Jannine Scott, Colorado Living and David Gonzalez.

And a big thanks to Tracy Shogren, Dianna Tuttle and Kelly Snyder for helping me get all the donations!

Join us for our next lunch at noon Monday, May 7, at Savelli's restaurant, 301 Manitou Ave.

GET INVOLVED

The Manitou Springs Women's Club meets at noon first Mondays in various locations.



Courtesy image

The club has made a difference in Manitou Springs for decades.

Housing Advisory Board

By Alea German

City Council's first official implementation action of Plan Manitou was to form the Housing Advisory Board and here we are, approaching the one-year anniversary of our first meeting!

We have a group of passionate and motivated individuals, each with diverse and creative ideas about how we can better house our community and ensure that residents of all ages, abilities and means have access to safe, affordable and quality housing in a livable neighborhood.

Manitou's population has slowly increased over the past decade while housing affordability has decreased, resulting in substantial housing availability gaps. Collaboration and creativity are key to solving our housing challenges. Working with other city boards and commissions, our many community groups, city staff and our elected officials, we plan to leverage and expand resources, arriving at better solutions than if each of us worked in a silo.

The HAB has been busy over the past 10 months. We just completed a draft Strategic Plan, for which we will request feedback from the community as well as City Council. Later this spring, we will host a community meeting to share our vision and engage in dialogue; stay tuned for specifics.

We've also been working on several initiatives. One is an energy-efficiency home-upgrade program, addressing affordability by lowering utility bills while providing safer, more comfortable and more durable homes. With our limited land to develop new housing, taking care of our existing building stock is critical.

The HAB is also working on an ordinance to encourage accessory dwelling units. ADUs entail a simple strategy to address affordability, and many cities across the nation are loosening restrictions on ADUs to promote their construction. An ADU may be the new build of a second structure on a property, conversion of an existing space such as a garage, or subdivision of an existing home into two units.

Lastly, given the importance of improving local food access in our community, we are investigating ways to marry housing with local food production in the form of greenhouses and caretaker housing. There is a mutually beneficial relationship between food and housing that can be taken advantage of in this live/work configuration.

The HAB is also looking for a volunteer to help get the home energy upgrade program off the ground. What do you think of these ideas? We want to hear from you, so please contact us at manitouhab@gmail.com.

“**Collaboration and creativity are key to solving our housing challenges.**”

GET INVOLVED

The Housing Advisory Board meets at 6 p.m. second Mondays in City Council Chambers, 606 Manitou Ave. HAB meetings are open to the public, and the board needs three alternate members. Information: www.manitou-springsgov.com/government/city-boards/hab.

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING UNITS

HOUSEHOLD CHANGE, 2000-2014					
Description	2000	2010	2014	Change 2000-2014	Ann. %
Households	2,422	2,504	2,598	176	0.5%
Housing Units	2,638	2,796	2,957	319	0.8%
Vacant Units	216	291	359	---	---
Vacancy Rate	8.2%	10.4%	12.1%	---	---

Source: US Census Bureau 5-year American Community Survey; Economic & Planning

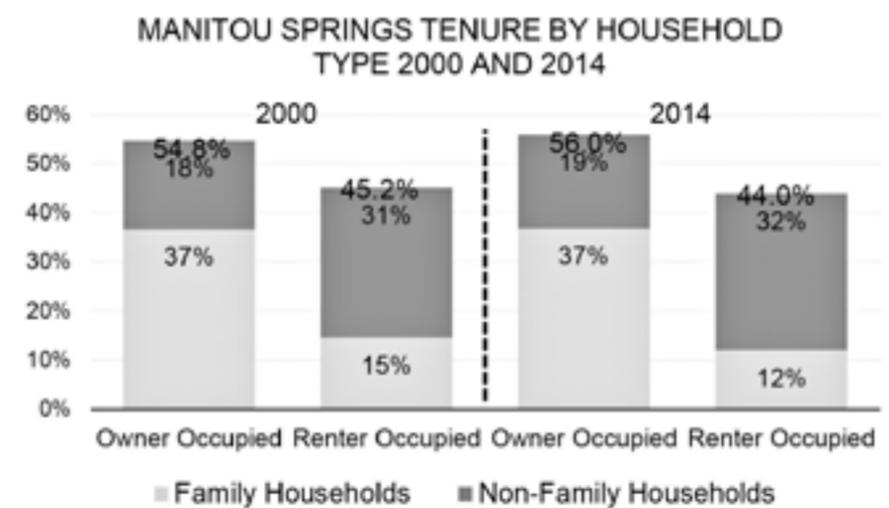
Vacant units: The percentage of vacant units in Manitou increased from 8.2 percent in 2000 to 12.1 percent in 2014.

HOUSING INVENTORY

US CENSUS: UNITS IN STRUCTURE, 2014			
Units in Structure	Manitou Springs	El Paso County	Colorado
Single Family Detached	62.9%	66.3%	62.9%
Single Family Attached	3.0%	7.9%	7.0%
Duplex	13.4%	1.4%	1.8%
3 to 4 Units	7.5%	3.8%	3.3%
5 to 9 Units	7.9%	4.0%	4.7%
10 to 19 Units	2.8%	4.9%	5.9%
20 or More Units	1.3%	8.2%	10.2%
Other	1.1%	3.4%	4.3%

Source: US Census Bureau 5-year American Community Survey

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

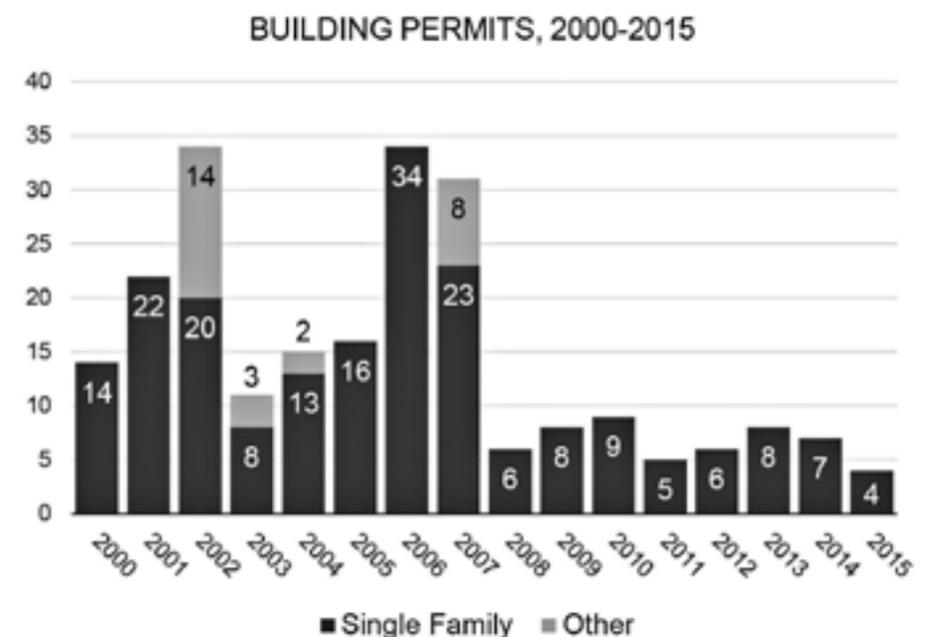


Source: US Census Bureau; Decennial Census & 5-year American Community Survey

MANITOU SPRINGS AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZES, 2014					
	Overall	Owner-Occupied	Renter-Occupied	Family	Non-Family
Manitou Springs	1.97	2.20	1.68	2.67	1.25
El Paso County	2.62	2.67	2.52	3.16	1.28
Colorado	2.54	2.60	2.44	3.13	1.33

Source: US Census Bureau: 5-year American Community Survey

RECENT GROWTH



Source: Pikes Peak Regional Building Department

Manitou Springs Bear Smart

By Nancy Wilson

In September 2017, the Manitou Springs City Council passed an ordinance regarding waste disposal and wildlife. On Jan. 1, 2018, it became the law. Ordinance enforcement began on April 1. You can find the ordinance here: library.municode.com/co/manitou_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances.

What does the ordinance mean for you?

Your trash must be “secured from wildlife” at ALL times except on the day of pick-up between the hours of 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. “Securely stored” does not necessarily mean you need to purchase a “bear-proof” container!

You may have several options:

- Secure your trash in your garage, not accessible to wildlife, until day of pick-up;
- Keep your trash in your house

until day of pick-up (many people put their smelly trash in their freezer and freeze it until the day of pick up); and

- Keep your trash cans in a wildlife-resistant enclosure — it must have four sides and a top. If animals can still get in, it’s not wildlife-proof.

If you opt to purchase a bear-proof container,

Bestway Disposal sells them for \$271. They will deliver it to your home and you will own it. Or you can purchase a bear-proof container from a retailer such as Ace Hardware or a local lumber company.

PLEASE make sure that this is a wildlife-resistant waste container, which means a “fully enclosed container of sturdy construction that meets the standards of testing by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) as bear resistant.” Don’t waste your money on a container that is not certified!

The ordinance does not apply to recycle containers or compost. However, to

avoid attracting bears, recycled containers should be free of food; compost should be well-layered and active (hot).

This is a “complaint-based” ordinance. The Manitou Springs code

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Manitou Springs Bear Smart, bearsmartmanitousp.wixsite.com/bearsmanitou, or search Facebook for “Bear Smart Manitou Springs.”



Attention Residents!
Manitou Springs Ordinance #7.10.030
 Your garbage must be secured from all animals and wildlife EXCEPT between the hours of 5am and 9pm on the day of pick-up. Failure to secure your garbage could result in a Warning, followed by a fine and summons to appear. Let's work together to keep people and wildlife safe!
 For more information, visit: www.BearSmartManitouSp.wixsite.com/BearSmartManitou

Courtesy image

officer will not look to write a ticket unless your trash is attracting wildlife. Violators will receive a “warning” ticket, followed by a \$75 fine for non-compliance. A third violation will result in a summons to appear in court.

Partners for Healthy Choices

By Jane Squires

Manitou Springs School District 14 serves the communities of Manitou Springs, Cedar Heights, Chipita Park and Green Mountain Falls, as well as more than 600 “choice” students. The district is committed to offer a “small town” educational environment driven by “Relationships, Rigor and Opportunity.”

The district’s Partners for Healthy Choices lives at the center of these components. PHC weaves into the district’s success with rigor and opportunity a good dose of the third component — relationships, not only with students, staff and families, but the entire Manitou Springs community.

PHC strives to support the community in all matters health and wellness. More than 100 families each year are served through our annual Holiday Help initiative, partnering with Manitou Springs Fire Department, Westside CARES, local churches, the Salvation Army and anonymous donors.

PHC runs before-and-after wellness classes such as Cliffhangers (rock/bouldering club), Yoga, and Core and More meeting Mondays through Fridays free for all citizens of our service area, including students, staff and families.

The mind-set “it takes a village to raise a child” is at the heart of PHC. The PHC district community board meets the first Wednesday of each month to address the “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child” tenets and create ACTION plans for

making changes to better our community.

With Partners for Healthy Choices support, cheerleading and collaboration, Manitou Springs has funded projects such as Safe Routes to School (a bridge created by the Masonic

Lodge), sidewalks (Manitou Springs Avenue to middle school), the Ute Pass Elementary School playground, district food pantry, sports equipment bank, clothing closet, parenting classes and much more to support school families!

TO LEARN MORE

Contact Jane Squires at 685-2004 or jsquires@mssd14.org.



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL
GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP
 PIKES PEAK PARTNERS

Join in with your community to clean up and beautify your city's parks and waterways.

Located in Memorial Park and surrounding areas. **Saturday, April 21** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (registration available up to 8:30 a.m.).

To participate, go to <http://www.gacppp.com>, click the register tab and scroll to the Manitou Springs Memorial Park location. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided. Please dress appropriately, bring sunscreen, gloves, and wear closed-toe shoes. Participants are encouraged to bring their own source of water. Participants under 16 must be supervised. All participants will be required to fill out a liability waiver form.

