



FOURTH
QUARTER
2016



Administration



Aquatics



Finance



Fire Dept



Hazard Mitigation



Parking



Planning



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Public Services

CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS NEWSLETTER

The city of Manitou Springs

By Mayor Nicole Nicoletta

2017 is off and running ... I'm writing this message from Mabel's Café in the Manitou Art Center.

I often forget how inspiring it is to be surrounded by art. Jo Hart has an exhibit here that displays reflections of women aging in America. If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out.

For you women out there, let me know if you connect to any of the figures; I was pleasantly surprised to connect with the Beige Warrior.

There's always a lot going on in Manitou; some highlights from my perspective include working with Concrete Couch to design signage for inside City Hall. Some of you spend enough time there to know where each department is, but for first-timers and visitors it's not the most user-friendly building.

The Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority board of directors, which I belong to, approved the initial cost to underground utilities and put up acorn lighting in the Westside Avenue Action Plan project area (31st Street to the Highway 24 overpass).

Residents who travel Crystal Hills Boulevard will notice the Wildcat Construction site. Please trust that the

city, in partnership with Wildcat, will be mindful of residents, traffic, and wear and tear on the area during this project.

The Incline Management Oversight Committee just met, as we do at 3:30 p.m. second Wednesdays, to discuss traffic mitigation in the Ruxton corridor, fundraising opportunities for permanent bathroom facilities and public safety matters.

Council continues to plug away at creating and updating a variety of policies, with the goal of managing this town in the most efficient, community-oriented, legal way possible.

There are usually a few growing pains involved in that, but as our city attorney once said, consider it "short-term pain for long-term gain." Not always comfortable, but it needs to be done.

The Manitou Springs Community Pantry (not associated with the city), held 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Andrews Church is going very well. We have new volunteers, Erin Ford and Becky Pontz, who take time and resources out of their lives to pick up food at the Care and Share Warehouse and deliver it to St. Andrews; thanks to Rev. Susie for allowing us to use



Bulletin file photo

Mayor Nicole Nicoletta, third from left, helps break ground for the Westside Avenue Action Plan in December.

the space.

Joe Kirkendall of New Life Church Manitou Springs is stepping in to help with distribution and Joanne Garrison, our stalwart volunteer who does a little of everything including handing out "old lady hugs," is dedicated and truly the rock of the pantry.

The pantry serves approximately 20 senior citizens each week and 30-60 Manitou residents depending on the season. We don't turn anyone

away without food, but the pantry is designed for Manitou Springs' residents.

Going on our fourth year, the pantry has served many hungry people and offered a sweet community space. We can always use nonperishable food to stock our emergency pantry; if you'd like to donate send me an email (nnicoletta@comsgov.com) and I'll gladly pick up your donation or meet you at the church, at the corner of Manitou and Cañon avenues.

Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency

By Sara Hartley

Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency manager

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

This team is overseeing numerous projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant, the Federal Emergency Management

Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection funds 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, along with

Manitou's Public Services Department, is

“We are developing a bi-annual bridge inspection process.”

committed to preserving and repairing the city's historic bridges that have been damaged over the years and during recent flooding.

We have requested \$100,000 in the 2017 city budget for bridge repairs, and have applied for a \$200,000 grant from the State Historic Preservation Office for repairs to the city's historic bridges.

Additionally, we are developing a bi-annual bridge inspection process, which will begin this year. This will ensure we are tracking new damage to the city's bridges and identifying where necessary repairs are needed.

See HAZARD MITIGATION/page 7

Events



By Joy Williams
Event coordinator

What a year in events! We saw favorites like the Commonwheel Arts Festival and the Pikes Peak Marathon grow in numbers, the revival of former events such as the Mayor's Cup honoring our past and present mayors, and brand-new events such as the Cinebis film festival and the Christmas Parade.

And how about the renowned Emma Crawford Coffin Races? Who could have asked for more beautiful weather?

Before I go any further, let me introduce myself: My name is Joy Williams and I came aboard as the event coordinator for this awesome city in mid-2016. One of my first assignments was to evaluate and streamline our event processes, both private and public.

During my research and inquiries I received great input from the event producers, the community, city staff, PARAB Board, Plan Manitou and City Council. Many of these ideas will be implemented in 2017.

Here's what's coming this year:

Applications and forms: We will redesign our current applications and

create event guide booklets, which will make it much easier to rent facilities and/or request to produce a special event.

Website public calendar: We are working on a State Internet Portal Authority grant to update our website with a focus on events. Our website was created by dedicated community members about eight years ago and is due for a little love in 2017.

Environmental impact: New practices will be implemented in an effort to preserve our parks and our environment through mindful event planning

and preparation.

Better parking: Popular events seem to have huge parking issues. For example, 10,000 people were in Manitou for this year's Coffin Races (double our population!). We will continue to evaluate and implement better parking situations and release information to our media partners. One new requirement will be to inform the residents and businesses in the impacted area.

Evaluate and improve traffic impact: In 2016, our wonderful Public Services Street Division created a large-event route through the city that we were able put in place as an experiment with for the Coffin Races and

“ Popular events seem to have huge parking issues. ”



Photo by Joy Williams

The annual Garden of the Gods run, which starts in northeast Manitou Springs, causes road closures in that area.

Christmas Parade. We are working hard with the Police, Fire, and Public Services departments to ensure residents and guests have a safe routes

and fun at events.

Formation of ERIC (Event Review and Impact Commission): Information coming soon.

Code Enforcement



By Kurt Arnoldussen
Code enforcement officer

A few reminders for the winter months: Please keep your sidewalk(s) clear. With the recent snow and schools being open again, it's important to ensure the sidewalks are safe for everyone to pass.

So, snow and ice need to be removed within 24 hours of the end of the snowfall. If ice starts accumulating on your sidewalk, please take care of it before it becomes a hazard.

When clearing your sidewalk, please do not shovel your snow or ice into the roadways. Doing this will only make it harder for your neighbors to drive and more work for our already busy plow drivers.

Code Enforcement is in the process of inspecting all of the city's hotels and motels to ensure they're complying with the Long-term Lodging Ordinance, which limits an individual's stay to less than 30 days in a 60-day period. Most of the hotels and motels are in compliance.

Those that are in violation will be required to submit a plan explaining how they will be in compliance within an established timeframe.

In regard to sandbags, it is time to get rid of them. They were intended as a temporary flood-prevention measure, but now they're worn out and detracting from Manitou Springs' beauty.

When the summer rains come, new sandbags will be available at the Cañon Avenue parking lot, 100 block

“ When the summer rains come, new sandbags will be available. ”



Bulletin file photo

Worn-out sandbags should be removed from sidewalks and other areas.

of Cañon Avenue; Hiawatha Gardens parking lot, 10 Old Man's Trail; and at the Public Works building, 101 Banks Place.

Beginning March 4, a dumpster will be available in the Cañon Avenue parking lot for discarded sandbags. Any sandbags remaining after this date will be considered a violation of

City Code. Please watch the city of Manitou Springs Facebook page and website, www.manitouspringsgov.com, for additional information as the date approaches.

If you have a complaint, question or concern about a city municipal code violation, contact at KArnoldussen@comsgov.com or 400-9040.

Police Department



Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer or help motorists deal with an emergency.

The three P's of safe winter driving: **prepare** for the trip; **protect** yourself; and **prevent** crashes on the road.

PREPARE

Maintain your car: Check the battery, tire tread and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the windshield washer reservoir and check your antifreeze. Make an emergency kit: flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets.

For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.

Stopped or stalled? Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright

markers on the antenna or windows and shine your dome light. If you run your car, clear the exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

Plan your route: Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice cold-weather driving:

- During the day, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot;
- When skidding, steer in the direction you want to go;
- Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes;
- Allow more time and space to stop on wet and icy roads; and
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space. Make sure that your tailpipe is clear of obstructions.

“If you run your car, clear the exhaust pipe.”



Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

Manitou's snowplow teams do their best to keep the streets clear.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly;
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an airbag; and
- Children 12 and younger are much safer in the backseat.

PREVENT CRASHES

- Drugs and alcohol never mix

- with driving. If you're planning to drink, designate a sober driver;
- Slow down and increase distances between cars;
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road; and
- Avoid fatigue by getting plenty of rest before the trip, stopping at least every three hours and rotating drivers if possible.

Fire Department



By John K. Forsett
Fire chief

Happy New Year to all of you from the Manitou Springs Fire Department!

Your Fire Department has worked extremely hard for you over the past year, and we envision this coming year to be much of the same but even bolder.

As you may have read in previous articles, the fire department's primary goal is to properly train and be equipped to perform the numerous varieties of emergency services our citizens and visitors require.

Last year, our training cadre implemented some of the most outstanding training opportunities ever offered to our department, opportunities that go far beyond the basic scope of firefighting. In preparation for 2017, the department's Training Officer Chris Byrnes, on behalf of the entire training cadre, presented the planned training syllabus for the coming year.

After reviewing their document, I said to them, "Wow! This is extremely bold and, if you pull this off, you will have created one of the best-trained departments of its kind."

To you, our citizens and visitors, I say, "Your firefighters, small in force as they might be, are driven and striving to provide you the best possible service available in our industry."

Currently, our medical staff is teaching an emergency medical technician course for 24 people, 12 of whom are Manitou Springs Fire Department volunteers.

Our lead paramedic, Ashley Wardell, has worked tirelessly to prepare for this course, not by just ensuring that the course syllabus is accurate and engaging for the purposes needed, but also by training our current emergency medical technicians to provide assistance with instruction and skills applications and techniques.

If you're wondering why the other 12 people in class are not Manitou volunteers, it's because the others are from our cooperators like El Paso County Search and Rescue and Wildland Team, and the Crystal Park and Green Mountain Falls fire departments. Without each other, it would be extremely hard for any one of us to go it alone.

As you may also remember from previous articles, the fire department is working diligently to create a training environment for our volunteers and area cooperators that will meet the needs of our services. This facility will provide the city with much-needed storage space, and an area for emergency operations and/or continuity of government should anything unthinkable happen to our beautiful City Hall.

We have selected an architecture firm, James W. Nakai and Associates, to create the schematic and program designs for this endeavor. An interesting fact about Nakai (which had no bearing on his firm's selection): His father was once the Manitou Springs fire chief.

Finally, whenever I write these articles, I never feel like I am able to do justice to the individuals who serve our community as members of the fire department.



Bulletin file photo

The Manitou Springs Fire Department's new truck will help firefighters be more efficient.

On the sides of our apparatus you can see the words "Neighbors serving Neighbors," a simple statement that says so much, but also says very little.

I wish I could name each and every one of these people and tell you how much they each contribute to make your fire department what it is. They are dedicated and selfless. No one individual has a need to be glorified by the rest, they humbly perform their duties and gain self-worth from within for a job well done.

When they are up, they are up as a team, and when they are down, they count on each other to get through the rough spots.

I always hope and pray that, because of their histories and what they see and do while performing their duties for our community, these folks always reach out to one another, family or friends, because what they do is sometimes not real pretty. To me, they are a blessing!

Public Services Department



By Shelley Cobau,
Public Services director

Ever busy in our small city, Public Services works hard ensuring the city is running efficiently and is continually safe for residents and tourists throughout the year. But it's not something we do alone. Prime examples: the various projects throughout the city, particularly on our streets.

Everyone has noticed all the orange barrels and cones up and down Manitou Avenue. Those are placed there by Colorado Department of Transportation while crews install new sidewalk ramps and update current ones along Manitou Avenue to ensure they comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This is part of a larger project to mill down the surface of Manitou Avenue and repave and restripe from the Highway 24 interchange to City Hall. CDOT anticipates this project will be completed by Memorial Day.

For some time now we've been coordinating efforts with the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County working hard on the Westside Avenue Action Plan, revamping what was once known as No Man's Land.

On Dec. 12, representatives from all entities involved in the project gathered at the Midland Trail next to Fountain Creek for the official ceremonial groundbreaking. For more details about the WAAP, see www.WestsideAvenuePlan.com.

The construction from 31st Street in Colorado Springs (along Colorado Avenue) to the Highway 24/Manitou Avenue Interchange (near the Loaf N' Jug) will take place all through 2017, with the portion inside the city beginning first.

This project, which includes funding from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority and the

city's Urban Renewal authority, will provide a beautiful gateway to the city of Manitou Springs. Public Services staffers are attending regular coordination meetings, led by the county's project manager, the project's construction management team from CH2M and contractor Wildcat Construction.

Public Services staff is coordinating the preparation of an Intergovernmental Agreement with CDOT for the Manitou Avenue West Phase V project, which will extend street beautification efforts from Tubby's Turnaround up to the Serpentine Roundabout. It is anticipated that the IGA will be completed in April and engineering will resume on this important PPRTA/CDOT funded project.

These are just the projects which we've been working with other organizations.

There's so much more we've worked on within our own department:

- Mansions Park Pavilion was repainted and refurbished with brighter, LED lights;
- Soda Springs Pavilion stage was refinished;
- At City Council's request, we installed an emergency, temporary fencing around Soda Springs Pavilion for security purposes — 2017 will see a permanent solution;
- Various signs around the city which were worn, faded or missing were replaced;
- Staff assisted the Eagle Scouts in building a ceremonial

flag-retirement facility and attended the first ceremony in October;

- Trimmed and removed trees and other vegetation along Fountain Creek, in city parks, Hiawatha Gardens and in the cemetery;

- Began digitizing our cemetery records — first manually locating all the headstones;
- Performed several mineral springs fonts improvements, including washing, replacing old equipment and

- Improved the stabilization and drainage along the Washington Bypass roadway.

All the while, our ever-busy employees continued their training and obtained certifications, which included keeping apprised of updated materials, different processes, new requirements and better improvements to continue to serve the residents and visitors of Manitou Springs in the best way possible.

Having completed so much in just the past six months, it's hard to believe there is still so much to be done. With more than 60 projects identified in 2017, our staff will be busy.

City Council recognizes this and authorized two new positions to be created this month. The first position (horticulturist/cemetery caretaker) was filled by a current employee who has been working hard at obtaining master gardener certificates and continual education of horticulture.

At the time of this publication, we will schedule and conduct interviews

for the maintenance worker — floater and the maintenance work — Parks division positions.

Hiring two additional employees will help us keep up with the routine job requirements and the upcoming projects.

One major project is coordinated with the Aquatics & Fitness Center, centering around the installation of the baby splash pool. The Sewer/Water department is assisting with the actual pool installation (including ensuring the proper placement and necessary movement of all water/sewer lines); the Streets division will install new lights and repave the parking lot; the Parks department will relocate the playground, update the picnic area and revamp the pedestrian bridge; and Stormwater employees will ensure the retaining walls at the pool are safe as well as perform maintenance and repairs on the lagoon.

Other noteworthy 2017 projects planned for around the city: an acceptable and permanent securing of Soda Springs Pavilion; complete digitization of the Crystal Valley Cemetery and roll out for public view/usage online; repave/restripe the parking lots in Manitou Springs, including Hiawatha Gardens; replace numerous fire hydrants around the city; install new bike racks and place bear-proof containers in pre-approved locations; install/improve storm drainage on Alpine Trail, Lafayette Road and Crystal Valley Cemetery; and resurface the tennis court.

My employees and I endeavor to hold the "Safety First" attitude for our employees, residents and visitors.

I would like to thank those who have positively acknowledged our Public Services employees, recognizing their hard work and that many of them go above and beyond their duties.

“With more than 60 projects identified in 2017, our staff will be busy.”

HAZARD MITIGATION/from page 4

A few highlights among the projects our department is currently working on:

The 2015 NRCS EWP-funded projects were given an extremely tight timeline for completion, but all were completed on time. Two of the 2013 NRCS EWP projects have started, one of them being the Ruxton Walls project, which was completed in December 2016. The Wildcat Gulch Stream Restoration project is approximately 75 percent complete. The city is partnering with Rocky Mountain Field Institute for some of the final project tasks on Wildcat Gulch, and we anticipate project completion by March 2017.

Consultants with the Colorado Water Conservation Board are in the process of designing the 2013 NRCS EWP Pawnee Detention Pond project, a

\$385,000 project to stabilize slopes and the channel near the site where the Intemann Trail crosses the canyon. As soon as the design is finalized, the city will post requests for proposals for construction of the designed plan, and bid through the process required by the funding agency.

The CDBG-DR-funded Williams Canyon Phase III project is currently in the design phase (see information box about Town Hall meeting).

City staff will present the Peakview Subdivision Waterline Replacement project on Feb. 9 at City Hall. Property owners can learn what the project will entail, including impacts to access and parking during construction, and ask questions about the project.

Because we value your input and expertise and

IF YOU GO

A Town Hall Meeting will take place 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave. The Williams Canyon Phase III design alternatives will be presented at this meeting for review and comment beginning at 6 p.m.

want to include all residents in the recovery 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, 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.

Planning Department



2017 promises to remain a busy one in the Planning Department, with many projects scheduled to take place during the upcoming year.

Fire mitigation project

In conjunction with the Manitou Springs Fire Department and with outstanding assistance from Nancy Wilson of the Open Space Advisory Committee, the city has been awarded a Great Outdoors Colorado/Colorado Youth Corps Association fire mitigation grant focused on the Intemann Trail, west of Pawnee Avenue.

The Colorado Youth Corps Association announced that 200 Coloradans ages 14 to 25 will be hired to work on critical outdoor recreation and land conservation projects throughout the state this summer. These projects will enhance Colorado's trails, parks, open spaces and wildlife habitat in 13 counties throughout the state.

The program's goal is to employ youth and young adults in partnership with local governments and open space agencies. In June 2016, the GOCO board of trustees announced that GOCO would invest \$500,000 of lottery revenue in Youth Corps projects in 2017. GOCO has approved the dispersal of \$250,000 for local governments and \$250,000 for open space organizations.

The Intemann Trail Fire Mitigation Project is part of the city of Manitou Springs Hazard Mitigation Plan and the city's integrated planning project begun in February 2016. It will continue the wildfire mitigation work

done by Mile High Youth Corps and AmeriCorps NCCC crews, which began in 2013 and 2014.

The Intemann and Iron Mountain trails form a potential firebreak around Manitou Springs' southern boundary and along the boundaries of the Red Mountain and Iron Mountain open spaces.

City staff and the Manitou Springs Fire Department will provide unique educational opportunities for Youth Corps crews. Sessions will be held at the Manitou Springs Fire Department and Manitou City Hall during the four-week period.

Cañon Avenue and Park Avenue bridge rehabilitation

This year will see the repair and rehabilitation of two vehicular bridges listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Projects include "saddling" each bridge, repairs

and restoration of the stonework, and reconstruction of the road surface and pedestrian sidewalks.

One bridge is on Cañon Avenue at the intersection with Lovers Lane; the other is on Park Avenue just north of the intersection with Manitou Avenue.

Please plan to attend a community meeting starting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, to meet the construction managers, learn more about the project and ask questions. The meeting takes place at City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave.

Short-term vacation rentals

Manitou Springs now has a specific phone number related to short-term vacation rentals. To express a concern or report a possible

“
Operating illegally does not mean that your business is considered 'grandfathered.'
 ”



Courtesy photo

The Colorado Youth Corps Association crews will help with fire mitigation around Manitou Springs this summer.



Bulletin file photo

Steve and Mary Snyder and their dog Jack check out information at the June 8, 2016 Plan Manitou meeting.

violation related to an existing approved or a possible illegal short-term vacation rental, call 1-435-STR-HELP (1-435-787-4357).

The map of existing vacation rentals and the regulations can be reviewed on the city's website at www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/departments/planning.

All vacation rentals that do not currently have a Manitou Springs business license are required to obtain city approval. Operating illegally does not mean that your business is considered "grandfathered." If the unpermitted operations do not apply for approval, and someone else obtains approval within a 500-foot radius of their property, then the illegal rental must cease operations.

Please remember: Bed and breakfasts have the owner living at the residence and providing a meal, typically breakfast, for guests only. Bed and breakfasts are also required to obtain conditional-use permits, but only in residential districts outside of the downtown and

commercial zones.

Vacation rentals do not require the owner or manager to be on-site, unless rental of individual bedrooms to different guests is proposed, and requires a conditional use in all zone districts.

Plan Manitou

Plan Manitou is the city's integrated master plan-hazard mitigation plan. The draft plan was posted from Nov. 22 through Jan. 6 for public comment and was circulated to city staff for input.

The consultant team and Planning Department staff will review all comments and prepare an updated draft for adoption. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the plan in a public hearing Feb. 8 and provide a recommendation that will be forwarded to City Council.

City Council is tentatively scheduled to review and consider

Finance Department



By Rebecca L. Davis
Finance director

The Finance Department has successfully completed another year of keeping the books for Manitou Springs.

Sales tax for 2016 is on track for being the highest the city has ever received. This enabled the city to provide the Urban Renewal Authority more than \$1,000,000, as per the development plan approved in 2007.

The URA was created to redevelop the area east of Highway 24 to the arch, along Manitou Avenue.

The additional sales tax also allowed the city to provide grant matches, in the amount of

\$644,353, for numerous grant-funded storm drainage projects.

These will make the city much more resilient in future flood events and increase the General Fund balance to a healthy level.

Just a reminder: The city no longer issues dog and cat licenses. We've contracted with the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, 610 Abbot Lane in Colorado Springs. If your pet sneaks out, call 473-1741 or visit www.hsppr.org to see if he or she is safe at the HSPPR facilities.

At the Jan. 17 City Council meeting, City Council adopted a resolution raising the enterprise fees (after much discussion at a recent City Council work session) which includes increasing the storm drainage fee from \$11 to \$13, the water flat fee from \$13.05 to \$13.75 for three-quarter-inch meters

You can enter into an agreement with the city to spread out that payment over several months.

How It Works

When you sign up for online bill payment you get a unique password that you use to access your personal account. Every month we'll send you a reminder e-mail to let you know when your bill is online.

Then, just log in through your Web browser and view your bill, which will look like the paper statement you're familiar with. Select a payment type — credit card, debit card, or electronic funds transfer — enter the information, and you're done!

It's that easy, and it only takes you a few minutes each month. We offered this service at the request of customers like you. Sign up today and see why so many people consider this the best way to pay your bills.

Xpress Bill Pay
Innovative Internet Payment Systems

and adding a tier to water consumption fees.

The commercial consumption water use fee will increase from \$5.85 to \$7 per 1,000 gallons.

The sewer flat fee will increase from \$14.30 per account to \$14.70 per account and the volume charge will increase from \$5.85 to \$6 per 1,000 gallons. The sewer volume charge for residential (defined by the Municipal Code as single-family dwelling units) is actually a flat amount based upon the amount of water use measured from mid-January to mid-February. This is to ensure that all the water used is going through the sewer and doesn't include water used for irrigation.

Always remember: 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."

This means if you have an exceptionally 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 out that payment over several months on top of your regular water bill to make that payment more manageable. Please call Dorris at 685-2579 for more information.

And as always, at any time you can decide to start paying your water/sewer bill through www.xpressbillpay.com.

Currently, we have two tiers for residential water consumption:	
\$5.25 per 1,000 gallons	Up to 15,000 gallons per month
\$6.35 per 1,000 gallons	More than 15,000 gallons per month

The resolution City Council adopted will add a tier:	
\$6 per 1,000 gallons	Up to 7,500 gallons
\$8 per 1,000 gallons	From 7,501 to 15,000 gallons
\$10 per 1,000 gallons	15,001 gallons and more

PLANNING/from page 8

adoption of Plan Manitou's master plan component in a public hearing Feb. 21.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan component will be submitted to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review. Once the plan receives "Approval Pending Adoption" status, it can be forwarded to City Council for adoption.

Implementation of Plan Manitou is already underway, even before official plan adoption. Planning Department staff is working with Amy Carr, a University of Colorado-Denver graduate planning student, to develop a capstone project for her that will also help the city implement a key hazard-mitigation planning action — mitigating hazard risk to historic properties.

Carr will conduct research into best practices, recommend appropriate hazard-mitigation planning strategies and create a brochure with guidance for property owners.

Information: www.planmanitou.com.

'Planning for Hazards' grant

Over the past year, the Colorado Planning Department of Local Affairs staff engaged numerous stakeholders and consultant support to develop a "Planning for Hazards" guide and website (planningforhazards.com). The guide is intended to assist communities in assessing their local hazard risk and developing land-use strategies to reduce it.

The guide focuses on Colorado-specific hazard risks and recommends mitigation strategies that are pertinent to the growth and development patterns across our communities.

Manitou planner Karen Berchtold participated in the process to develop the guide.

DOLA staff sought two communities that experienced recent federal disaster declarations to participate in a pilot project to receive technical assistance to analyze their hazard risk, apply the "Planning for Hazards" guidance and develop land-use tools to mitigate their hazard risk.

Planning Department staff applied for the grant and Manitou Springs was selected to receive the assistance. Staffers have begun meeting with DOLA staff to outline the process, which will begin in late summer 2017.

Please direct questions to planmanitou@comsgov.com, or to Karen Berchtold or Wade Burkholder, 685-4398.

Library expansion concept in final phase

The conceptual plans for expanding the Manitou Springs Library are in the final phase of public and city review. The team led by Architect Roger Thorp of Thorp Associates has been gathering input and drafting alternative plans since July 2016 to develop a concept for the expansion and remodel of the historic Carnegie Library.

The team first held public meetings to obtain feedback and information from the community.

That and input from Pikes Peak Library District (which operates the Manitou Springs facility) personnel informed several versions of expansion plans developed over the past five months.

The final draft proposal was presented to the Manitou Springs Historic Preservation Commission on Dec. 7, at which time the commission unanimously approved the conceptual design. The Park and Rec Advisory Board was presented the concept on Jan. 9 and also unanimously recommended Council approval of the proposal.

PARAB noted that more information would be developed and considered regarding the access and parking plan for the area behind the library along Duclou Avenue. A public meeting earlier that same day gathered some great input and overall support for the project.

A final presentation of the conceptual plans will be made to City Council on Feb. 7. The public is encouraged to attend to provide additional comments or just to show support for the project.

Go to ppld.org/manitou-library-expansion for information and to see the draft expansion plans. You can also email carnegie@comsgov.com with questions or comments.

Once City Council approves the conceptual expansion and remodel plans, fundraising for the project will begin. The next phase in the project will be future development of final, detailed plans and it is hoped construction could be underway as early as 2018.

Manitou Aquatic & Fitness Center



By Roy Chaney
Aquatics director

2016 was a great year for the pool and fitness center.

We installed a new competitive diving board with funds from the Conservation Trust Fund and an anonymous donor. The board has been in use since November 2016 and already has seen two high school competitions and a new pool record. The board is available to the public during recreation/public swim times and we plan to offer diving classes.

The baby splash pool construction is underway and actually looks like a swimming pool now after the cement was poured right after Christmas. Work will continue through spring, with plans to open in summer 2017.

Finally, the men's and ladies' showers will see much-needed improvements in 2017. This will include installing new showerheads and controls, replacing the tile and improving handicapped access.

Our Star Fish Aquatics public lessons, after-school/daycare lessons, Aqua-aerobics, private lessons for adults and children, weight training and fitness classes, and health classes (such as CPR, first aid and lifeguard training) are very popular. Enrollment is at all-time highs, requiring wait lists.

Also, the Manitou High School girls team had a fourth-place finish at 4A State and started their new 3A season



Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

The baby splash pool is under construction next to the main building.

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Enrollment is at all-time highs, requiring wait lists.

last November with hopes of performing well in this new high school division. The Colorado Torpedoes Swim Team has continued its success with 93 children, most from the Manitou area. They had outstanding performances at the Western Sectionals and Junior Nationals this

past year.

Yoga, Core, Aqua-aerobics and weights/fitness programs are doing well. Several classes, for beginners through advanced, are offered every week. The weight room will get some new equipment in 2017 and use of the facility has been at all-time highs.

Information: www.manitoupool.com or 685-9735.

Our numbers for 2016:

Total memberships average: 116
2016 attendance in each area:
Lap swimmers: 11,268
Aqua-aerobics: 6,939
Public swim: 5,540
Programs (swim team, lessons, CPR): 17,859
Weight training and fitness: 9,246
Parties: 6,151
Total using Manitou Pool: 57,003 patrons

Parking office

By Dane Lyon
Senior manager, SP+ Parking

I can't believe 2017 is here already! This means that it's time to renew your Residential Parking Permit. We do not keep a wait list once all spaces are taken, so act quickly.

We will honor 2016 passes through the end of January, after which your 2017 permit should be displayed. Pricing and availability:

The Wichita and Cañon lots have plenty of availability at \$240 per year;

The Smischny lot has plenty available at \$75 per year;

The Prospect lot tends to fill up quickly, but we still have limited

available at \$60; and

We have evening-only permits at \$30.

As most may be aware, the Barr Trail Lot is now reservation only. To purchase parking there, log on to ParkBarrTrail.com, select your desired date and time to park and complete the purchase process.

Enforcement is managed by license plate number, so please ensure that your plate number has been entered correctly. The reservation system should help create turnover and make the lot more accessible to everyone.

We would also like to remind everyone of the free parking and shuttle service at the Hiawatha

Gardens parking lot, Old Man's Trail and El Paso Boulevard.

If you've received a parking citation, they can be conveniently paid at our parking office in City Hall, at www.parkingticketpayment.com/manitou, or by calling 888-614-7240.

For more information, please stop by the office at 606 Manitou Ave., call 685-2549 or go to www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/city-boards/pab.

Best wishes in 2017.



Bulletin file photo

Input your license plate number at any of the many parking kiosks throughout downtown.