



City of Manitou Springs Newsletter



Overseeing flood recovery efforts among top priorities

By Jason Wells
City Administrator

Greetings Manitoids! As I write these words, I am just concluding my third full week on the job as City Administrator and though I'm admittedly a bit exhausted from the orientation process, I can say with absolute certainty that I'm feeling even more excited about stepping into the position than I was on day one.

Obviously, the importance of overseeing the community's continuing flood recovery efforts was immediately evident and these many projects will continue to occupy a fair share of my daily attention. But the incredible team the City has in place to help navigate all the complex repairs, improvements, planning objectives, and funding strategies at

play has eased my introduction to this realm incredibly, and I cannot give thanks enough to those who are making everything happen on this front.

With respect to the day-to-day affairs of the City, my predecessor Jack Benson promised me that I would arrive to find a professional staff with a sincere dedication to making all City services and operations the absolute best they can be. No doubt, there are any number of possible improvements that have yet to be tackled in striving toward this goal. But within a mere few weeks, staff has reaffirmed Jack's assurances to me in countless ways. Careers in local government simply do not come with the promise of acquiring fame and/or fortune. Those who choose them tend to define success less in terms of personal

achievement and more in terms of the positive change they are able to lend to the communities in which they serve. As I continue to get settled here, the selfless approach of City staff has most certainly served to reinforce this notion.

Importantly, my experience with your City Council thus far has conveyed a similar sentiment. Before I actually started the job, I was fortunate enough to have squeezed into a van with the Mayor, Public Works Director, and all six councilmembers to spend a full afternoon touring the municipal water system. While a detailed understanding of such functions might be a requirement of my job description, to witness each of your elected officials take away from their otherwise busy lives/careers to better

understand these operations was truly inspirational. No doubt there will be a division of opinion on this Council no matter the issue that comes before it. This gesture was evidence to me, however, of the ability of your local elected officials to come together as a cohesive and devoted public entity with respect to those matters of the utmost shared importance to the community.

Imagine for a moment all of Congress first agreeing to and then actually loading onto a bus and taking an exhaustive tour of the Hoover Dam. With that preposterous vision in mind relative to my positive experience here thus far, you will perhaps get a glimpse of why I feel not only excited to serve the Manitou Springs community at this level, but truly privileged.

Manitou Springs Volunteer Fire Department

Greetings and welcome to the summer of 2014. Your fire department hopes you enjoyed the fireworks this year. We are quite happy to get back to our annual celebration. Our weather was great with temperatures in the 70s and relative humidity in the 40s. But the barometer (no pun intended) did not end there. We had to ensure that we would have resources to manage any untoward situation that might arise whenever you are blowing off mortars from a mountainside.

Those resources came to us through Green Mountain Falls Fire Department, Crystal Park Fire Department, Pike Forest Engine crew, Colorado Springs Utilities Wildland crew, El Paso County Wildland Crew and your Manitou Springs Fire Department. Without them, our fireworks would not have been possible.

Oh yeah, remember do not try this at home, we are professionals, really we are, your own Captain John Nichols is a certified pyro technician, as is his cohort retired Captain, Brad Walters.

The Manitou Springs Fire Department was asked to help with the 8-Mile Fire (Canon City-Phantom Canyon). We sent our brush truck (Type 6) engine with Captain Bobby White, Ben Engelhardt, Steven Stockton, and Adam Drake. They returned on July 1st in time to rehab the apparatus and get ready for the Fourth.



Another resource that made the celebration possible came in the form of the funds needed to purchase the mortars which came from donations from many of our local merchants, you, our citizens, and our visitors. Thank YOU to YOU and YOU know who YOU are!

Your fire department is in the process of purchasing a new Brush Engine (Type 6). The parts are arriving and the vehicle will be

assembled and delivered next month.

We have an AMR ambulance posted in your station, so when they are not assigned to an emergency in the county, they will be here and ready to respond to medical emergencies in town.

Jonah Buchanan placed mile-markers on Barr trail for his Eagle Project. This will help injured hikers identify their location which in turn will help us get to them quickly. This

is the second Eagle project through Boy Scout Troop # 18. The first was Jordan Barnett who facilitated placing smoke detectors in our residences.

Your fire department won BEST OVERALL in the Muscular Dystrophy Chili Cook-off, they won 3rd in Red Chili, 2nd in Best Booth and 1st in most money raised. SO, we have the Travelling Bear which is like the Stanley Cup in Hockey, except better...

Your firefighters that participated were, Austin Breen, Matthew Clark, David Combs, Edward Elzarian, Benjamin Engelhardt, Eddy Elzarian, Michele Fox, Michael Garman, Meredith Green, Jenifer Honken, Alexander Keylin, Joshua Maul, John Nichols, Dave Pamplin, Michael Perkins, Randy Perkins, Julianne Peters, Steve Schopper, Groff Schroeder, Brittney White, Bobby White, Michael Willie, Paul Willie, Mark Wong, and Kaitlyn Woofter

In closing, I want to remind you to remind your neighbors that on the First Monday of the Month, we will be testing the siren alert warning system which will be accompanied with a phone call Emergency Notification System (ENS) through the El Paso//Teller County E9-1-1

Hope the first half of your summer is going well, and hope it continues until the next newsletter.

Sincerely,
Chief Keith Buckmiller

Manitou Springs Police Department

Bicycle Safety Information

-All bicyclists should wear fitted helmets every time. It is the most effective way to prevent head injury from a crash.

-Before using a bicycle, make sure it's ready to ride. Always inspect your bike to make sure all parts are secure and working properly. Check all your equipment before riding.

-Adjust your bicycle to fit. Stand over your bicycle, there should be 1-2 inches between you and the top bar if using a road bike and 3-4 inches if using a mountain bike. The seat should be level from front to back. The seat height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended. Handlebar height should be at the same level with the seat.

-See and be seen. Bicyclists should increase their visibility by wearing fluorescent or brightly colored clothing while riding. At night, use a front light and a red reflector or flashing rear light, and use retro-reflective tape or

markings on equipment or clothing.

-Avoid riding at night. If you have to ride at night, wear something that makes you more easily seen by others. Make sure you have reflectors on the front and rear of your bike (white lights on the front and red rear reflectors are required by law).

-Control your bicycle. Always ride with at least one hand on the bike. Carry all other items in a carrier or backpack.

-Bicyclists are considered vehicle operators and are required to obey the same rules of the road as other motor vehicles (including obeying traffic signs, signals, and lane markings). Cyclists must ride in the same direction as traffic, obey all traffic laws and yield to traffic when appropriate. Stay alert at all times, use your eyes and ears. You need your ears to hear traffic and avoid dangerous situations; don't wear a headset when you ride.

-Motor vehicle drivers also need to share the road with bicyclists. Allow at

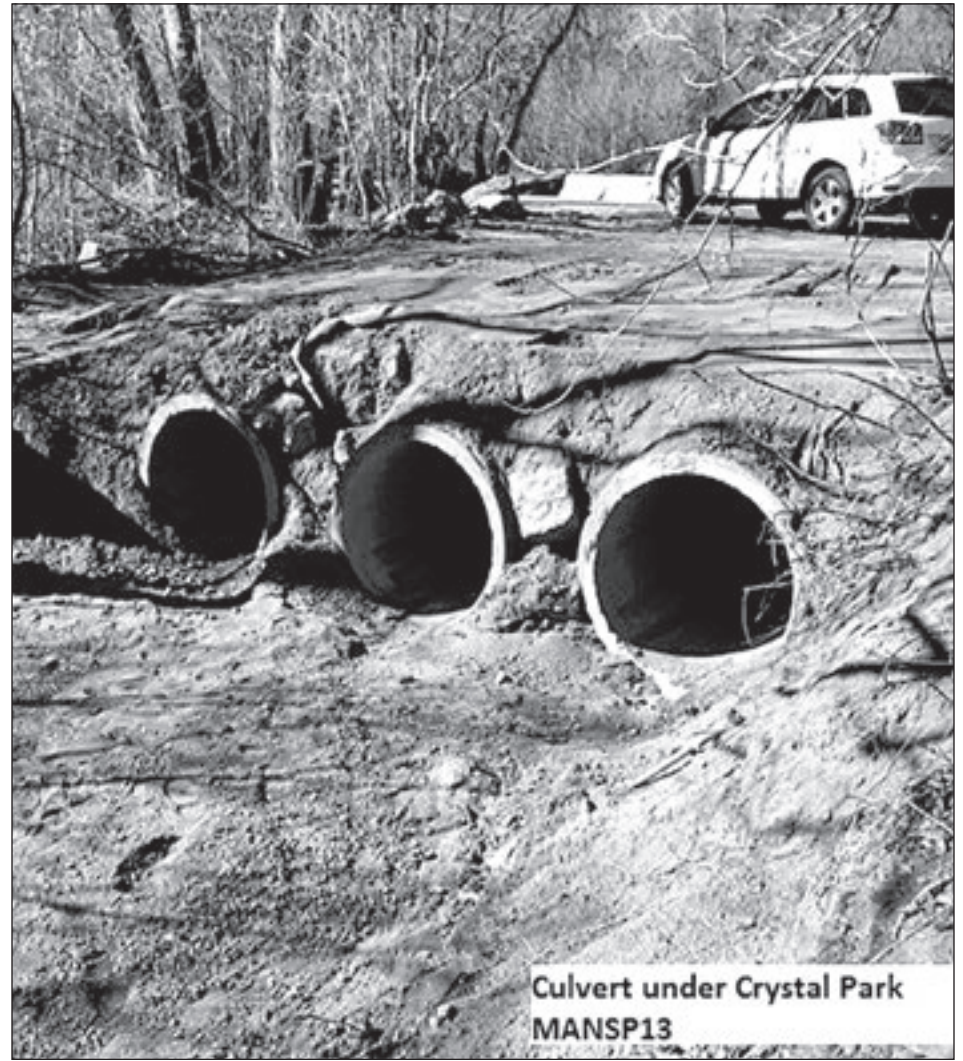


least 3 feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist on the road, look for them when opening car doors or pulling out of parking spaces, and yield to them at intersections and as directed by signs and signals.

-The safest place for bicycle riding is on the street, where they are expected

to follow the same rules of the road as motorists and ride in the same direction.

-Children less than 10 years of age are better off riding on the sidewalk. However, in the City of Manitou Springs, riding a bicycle on the sidewalk is prohibited.



Culvert under Crystal Park
MANSP13

Public Works Department

We are happy to report that of the 20 projects approved by FEMA, 18 have been completed. An updated list can be found on the front page of the City website under "Flood Information".

The two largest projects were the second phase of the Fountain Creek debris removal and the repair of all the streets damaged by the flood. The second phase of the Fountain Creek debris removal went well: the original estimated quantity to be removed was 12,000 cubic yards but as a result of heavy water flow in April and May which carried sedimentation away, the final quantity came to 6,100 cubic yards. This comes in addition to the 3,000 cubic yards previously removed in the first phase. The grand total comes to 9,100 cubic yards, a huge quantity of sediment. We have a new "mountain" at the Public Works Facility.

The second largest project was the repair of all the streets damaged by the flood. This project has been completed as well.

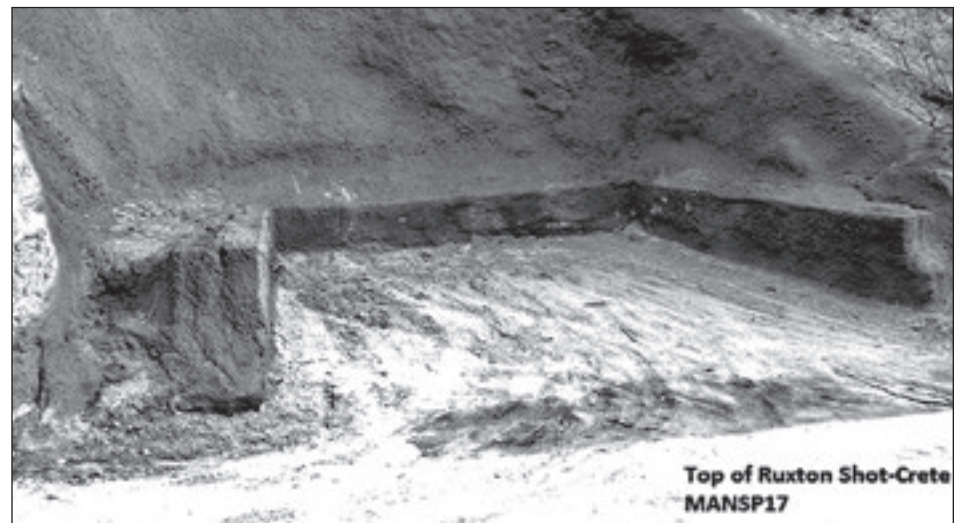
We also have other projects which are not covered by FEMA and, as a result, we are working with Mike Schaub, FEMA's state representative for the City, on obtaining a number of grants to pay for them. We are looking at grants for the replacement of the three Crystal Park culverts and upstream mitigation (\$350,000), the replacement of the fence and a portion

of the retaining wall at Mansion Park (\$22,500) and the replacement of 3.2 miles of raw water pipeline between French Creek and the treatment plant. The estimated cost for this last project is \$2.75 million and we are looking at several organizations for a grant. Finally, a grant for \$150,000 is being sought to pay for a Master Storm Water Drainage Plan.

Regarding other projects, Waltham Avenue water and sewer mains were replaced as part of the FY 2013 Capital Improvement. This project had been delayed as a result of the 2013 flood and was finally completed in May. The street was graded and paved with an inverted crown to improve the drainage. An 18-inch storm drain was also replaced on Minnehaha.

Another ongoing project is the replacement of 200' of 54" corrugated steel storm drainage on Crystal Hills Boulevard near Manitou Avenue. This project is underway and should be completed by the end of July. We are aware of the inconvenience created by this project and ask for your patience and understanding.

Finally, we have contacted the Colorado Department of Transportation in regard to the verbal maintenance agreement on Manitou Avenue between CDOT and the City. Although we will continue snow plowing the avenue, we will stop the maintenance, the reason being that we



Top of Ruxton Shot-Crete
MANSP17

verbally agreed to maintain the avenue until it was overlaid in FY2015 (starting July 2014). Unfortunately we were informed that this work has now been postponed to FY2017 or later and we simply do not have the

resources to take care of it.

Please contact CDOT directly to report pot holes or maintenance issues.

Bruno Pothier
Public Works Director

Finance Report

The big news for the Finance Department this quarter is that we have finally filled that gaping personnel vacancy which has been open since I was promoted to Finance Director.

Our new Accountant is Nicole Ortega. She has excellent governmental accounting experience and loves Manitou (two requisites that I considered vital for the position). A native Coloradoan, she loves camping,

reading and playing with numbers (another requisite for an accountant). She has turned out to be a real asset and is learning more each day. If she helps you at the counter, please say "hello" and make her feel welcome.

Also, plans continue to start taking utilities payment through an on-line website. We hope to have this service available in the next couple of months and we'll keep you posted.

— Rebecca Davis

Manitou Pool & Fitness Center



By Roy Chaney
Aquatics Director

During the second quarter, we spent most of the spring preparing our baby pool and indoor pool for the summer rush.

The baby pool had some minor tile repair and the indoor pool area had a major wash and scrubbing. Lifeguards and staff were trained in the latest

lifesaving techniques and drowning prevention. We also spent several days training with the new American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor program and now are offering Red Cross swim lessons.

We are getting many positive comments concerning our swim lessons and we're also looking forward to applying this program to the new high school aquatics physical education class this fall.

Several school classes enjoyed the pool for their

end of school year parties with more than 500 students participating over two weeks.

Finally, we held the "World's Largest Swim Lesson" on June 20 and had over 40 participants. Last year we joined hundreds of swimming pools across the world to break the Guinness Book of World Records and had the opportunity to educate people on the importance of water safety and learning how to swim.

The following maintenance was performed:

- Replaced belts on air exchangers and cleaned filters.
- Sanitation of the pool deck, seating areas and bathrooms.
- Baby pool tile repaired and opened for summer.
- General weight equipment maintenance.

Come check out some of our programs that include:

- American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim (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 for 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.

Planning Department

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is looking forward to undertaking some code revisions to the zoning and subdivision regulations in the next several months. Refinements and clarifications to the codes are needed in order to make them more user friendly and provide the kind of direction that property owners and developers rely on as they plan for new developments and uses for property in Manitou Springs.

Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission has approved two maintenance mini-grants for projects in the Historic District. Grants for up to \$500 are available for qualified work. Contact the Planning Department if you are interested in applying for these funds.

The Commission also had a great retreat at Good Karma on Saturday, June 7th. They spent the day going over potential revisions to the Design Guidelines, their rules of procedure, and public education and outreach. Lots of good ideas were shared and we'll be implementing some of them in the coming months.

Open Space Advisory Board

OSAC has been busy planning for the connection of the Intemann Trail through the Iron Mountain Open Space. This effort has benefitted from unprecedented assistance from other trail building organizations in the region and a large number of individual volunteers. Over 1,000 feet of trail has been installed this summer and the hope is the trail can be completed by 2015.

Parking Authority Board

In the past couple of months the PAB board has been working on:

- A plan to providing LED lighting in the Canon Avenue Parking Lot and security lighting enhancements for other lots.
- Preparing to implement a pay-by-phone program that will allow patrons to pay for parking without having to first go to a meter.
- Approval and implementation of the second Residential Parking Permit area in the Upper Washington Avenue neighborhood. Signs have gone up and permits are being issued to residents.

- The Free Shuttles, which reached more than 28,000 riders in the first six weeks of operation!

Urban Renewal Authority

The URA Board has been busy during the past couple of months. In fact, we have increased the number of meetings from quarterly to monthly for at least the remainder of 2014. This is good news for our city because the board is actively working on the east side of Manitou and receiving needed help in planning ahead for future development.

In the past year we created a façade improvement program that is available to property owners within the URA District. Property owners and tenants can receive up to \$1,000 toward the total cost of exterior building needs and street frontage improvements. Please remember the Urban Renewal area boundaries are on Manitou Avenue from the east Arch to the US24 Overpass and area along the southern side of El Paso Blvd. Please contact the Planning Department if you have questions about this program.

We have also taken another major step in our desire to change east end of Manitou Avenue by granting the new Adam's Mountain Cafe almost \$50,000 to make improvements to the exterior of their new location. We are sure many citizens have driven by and seen the

changes that have occurred to the site since the takeover by the new owners. We hope to be able to share some other plans soon as we encourage developers and property owners to invest in the entrance to our city from the east.

We have taken seriously the survey the board had available on our website and at the Land Use Model Open House a few months ago. We now have some conceptual ideas presented by citizens that we will use to encourage changes to the east end.

Also, we must not forget that Manitou Springs is working with El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs on the Manitou Avenue/Colorado Avenue corridor, which will see major changes to the streetscape and function in the next two years.

The URA board continues to work collaboratively with the other entities to make important changes that will improve the curb appeal to our Manitou citizens as well as our neighbors to the east and our many visitors.

Our information can be found on the City website at:

www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/city-boards/ura.