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QUARTER
2015



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CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS NEWSLETTER

Public Services Department

By Greg Springman
Public Services Director

I would like to say that here in the City of Manitou Springs the past three months have been quiet, but it has been nothing near quiet — quite the opposite! In the month of May alone, the City of Manitou Springs received approximately 13 inches of rain, which has caused some major and minor damages around town.

Since I started here as your Public Services Director on April 13, I have been riding a non-stop rollercoaster of challenging excitement.

In this newsletter, I would like to share some of the projects that have resulted from the May rains, along with other pressing projects.

So let's talk potholes. Earlier this year, the City Council approved \$40,000 for pothole repair throughout the City. The City staff secured bids from

several contractors, ultimately contracting with Martin Marietta for the project. As of this week, Martin Marietta has met its contractual obligations.

The company has patched more than 3,200 square feet of pavement, utilizing approximately 13.07 tons of asphalt material. City staff will maintain any remaining potholes that are discovered.

Most of the potholes around Manitou have been patched with the exception of several along Manitou Avenue, which is owned and maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Now let's move on to the Spring

Street culvert crossing. During the heavy rains in May, routine inspections of the City's flood-control system were performed, which is when the failing Spring Street culvert crossing was discovered. City notified qualified engineers and subsequent inspection of this culvert crossing confirmed City staff findings and the culvert crossing was closed indefinitely.

On June 9, City Council approved spending \$78,826 to purchase a temporary bridge. Per recent discussion with the supplier, the temporary bridge is nearly completed. The tentative schedule for installation is by the end of this month.

Now that the Williams Canyon Stormwater Channel is online and operational, this newly acquired asset demands periodic maintenance by Public Service staff to remove debris collected by

the debris catch fences strategically located in the channel. With the heavy rains in May, City staff has now removed debris on two occasions, totaling approximately 300 square yards.

In the past, this debris would have flowed down Fountain Creek and caused damages. Although maintaining this channel requires additional work for Public Services staff, ultimately the channel is doing its job.

As the City staff liaison to the Mineral Springs Foundation, I can report that MSF members and City staff are collaborating to complete the final review of the Mineral Springs Aquifer Study Phase II Request for

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— Greg Springman

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Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

Proposal (RFP). The study has been structured to help MSF and City staff better understand the complexities involved with operating and maintaining the mineral spring wells located throughout the city. MSF and the City of Manitou Springs sent notices to several qualified engineering firms inviting them to participate in the RFP process.

The RFP notice has been placed on the City's website as well. A “mandatory” pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. July 22 in Council Chambers; the final RFP submittal deadline is 4 p.m. Aug. 14.

Recently, you may have noticed water seeping in the center of the 7 Minute Spring Amphitheater. On June 30, City staff, MSF representatives and the Barnhart Pump Co. began excavating the amphitheater and discovered the “old” 7 Minute well was leaking. The well had been abandoned sometime in the early 1980s. City staff temporarily

mitigated the leak and installed a permeate access point to the abandoned well.

By the end of July 2015, City staff, MSF and Barnhart are tentatively scheduled to bring a well-drilling rig into the 7 Minute Spring Amphitheater to place a new permeate concrete plug into the well casing, fixing the leak and preserving the amphitheater.

These are just some of the projects City staffers are working on in addition to the normal day-to-day activities in the area of Water and Sewer, Parks, Streets, Stormwater and other city-owned facilities needing attention.

I would like to thank all residents throughout our great town who continue to remain patient as we tackle these larger projects, all while maintaining our normal public services. I look forward to continuing this dialogue in the upcoming newsletters.

Planning Department



By **Michelle Anthony**, *Senior Planner*,
and **Karen Berchtold**, *Planner*

Vacation Rentals

Summer is here and along with it comes the influx of visitors to Manitou Springs. If you have considered hosting those visitors in your home, apartment, townhome, etc., there is important information you need to know:

Short-term rental of less than 30 days is not a permitted use in any of the City's residential zones.

Until recently, a Conditional Use Permit from the City needed to be approved for this type of use of residential property. In April 2015, City Council enacted a moratorium on any new vacation-rental operations pending the drafting of regulations governing vacation rentals. The Planning Department is working on those regulations.

Vacation rental is considered lodging and is subject to the collection of sales and lodging taxes and remittance to the City, county and state.

Operation of this type of lodging also requires a Manitou Springs business license. Failure to be properly licensed and/or collect the required taxes can lead to tickets and fines.

The Planning Department is monitoring online booking sites for vacation rental listings and contacting property owners as the businesses are discovered. Every week, we find more or hear about them through neighbors. Currently, owners of unlicensed, unapproved vacation rentals risk legal action; many have had to cancel reservations – making some visitors to Manitou Springs less than happy (as you can imagine). These owners are still liable for remittance of taxes for rental activity which occurred before their operations were shut down.

If you are operating a vacation rental in Manitou Springs without City approval and haven't

been contacted, please know it is only a matter of time before you receive a letter. Save yourself potential legal and financial impacts and cease operation until you can do so legally.

If you're thinking about starting one of these businesses, please contact the Manitou Springs Planning Department and we can discuss the moratorium with you.

If you know of an operation and want to find out if it is licensed, please contact the Planning Department.

We encourage everyone – operators, people thinking about a vacation rental business and residents who are concerned or supportive of this type of lodging in their neighborhood to watch for discussions at upcoming Planning Commission meetings (held the second Wednesday of each month). Planning Commission agendas are posted on the City's website (www.manitouspringsgov.com under the "Government" tab), or you can contact the Planning Department at 685-4398 or planningdept@comsgov.com to get the meeting schedule. It is important for the City to get a variety of feedback on this issue so we can draft regulations that meet the community's expectations and needs.

Summer Shuttle

So far, the summer shuttle has seen even more riders than expected. May 2015 was up 22 percent over May 2014, and June maintained the popularity of the shuttle with locals and visitors.

Master Plan

In early April, the City learned its submittal for a Planning Resiliency grant from the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program was successful. The \$300,000 award enables the City to engage a consultant team to guide us in developing a joint Community Master Plan/Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff posted a request

for proposals, convened a review panel and is finalizing a scope of work and contract.

As part of the Master Plan effort, the City is also conducting original data collection for land use and housing elements. Planning staff worked with Invision GIS consultants to develop a customized, online inventory application for the iPad. Two University of Colorado at Colorado Springs interns, Joshua Camacho and Robert Bishop, were hired and are using the app to collect land-use data for each City parcel and housing data for every residential property. The housing data will be used to develop a Housing Assessment, an important element that will inform the plan about housing needs and goals for the coming years.

The City hired a third intern, Clint Hager from Pikes Peak Community College, to develop a Master Plan webpage, a graphic identity and educational materials. Early concepts were shared with the Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee at its first meeting June 19.

Planning Director Wade Burkholder and Planner Karen Berchtold attended Department of Local Affairs training in Longmont for CDBG-DR2 compliance. This is the program that funded the Master Plan grant, so it is important we are fully informed on what is required in regard to reporting, record-keeping, etc.

Berchtold also worked with economic development consultant Mickie Valente and Chamber of Commerce Director Leslie Lewis to host an Economic Development resiliency work session May 14. The concept of community resiliency is really the watchword of the Master Planning process for Manitou Springs.

There is a lot of work going into the Master Plan already. Please watch for meetings or contact the Planning Department to find out how you can participate directly.

Finance Department



By **Rebecca Davis**, *CPFO*,
Finance Department Director

Smile, you're on camera now when you come into the Finance office. Yes, we're part of the new City Hall-wide CCTV system to bring us into the modern world. So, make sure your pearly whites are brushed and hair is combed.

Alternatively, you can pay your utility bill in your pajamas from home online with Xpress Bill Pay, thanks to a partnership started in November. The website is www.xpressbillpay.com.

I have to give a big pat on the back to our Deputy Finance Director, Nicole Ortega. She has successfully closed out the City's two Governor's Declaration Grants, making Manitou Springs the first community in the state to do so. Not only that, but the State Office of Emergency Management requested use of her close-out letter as a template for all the other communities to use for their close-outs. She graciously allowed them to do so.

In case you're wondering, the funding from the two grants was applied to our Williams Canyon Project.

The Finance Department is rapidly approaching the end of our audit with just a few odds and ends to tie up and then on to the midyear budget and end-of-year budget. It's all part of the great circle of Government Accounting.



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– **Rebecca Davis**



Early in the month of May, I attended the annual Government Finance Officers Association's Conference. It was an excellent learning opportunity concerning new auditing standards from the Federal Office of Management and Budget, implementation of the Government Accounting Standards Board's new pension-reporting requirements, resiliency and best practices in budgeting, among other topics.

Finally, just a reminder, all mail from Manitou now goes up to Denver and then back down to Manitou. So, give your utilities payments extra time to get here, if you mail them, because they're taking the scenic route.

Parking



By **Neal Yowell**,
Facility Manager

Happy summer to my fellow Manitoids. The summer season of 2015 has been very busy and the town has been blessed with no major catastrophes.

The transition to my new management style has been productive and efficient.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and cooperation during my initial early months as the facility manager for the City of Manitou Springs.

The town will encounter new smiling faces and experience a positive customer service attitude from my staff.

The Residential Parking Permit programs for Grand Avenue and the Duclou/Osage Corridor are complete. Signs designating the new RPP areas are installed.

Residents will need to provide a valid ID, current registration for each vehicle and proof of residence (water bill, lease, etc.) and we will be happy to issue permits and guest passes for your home's area.

City Administrator



By Jason S. Wells,
City Administrator

As the third quarter of the year begins, I am happy to be celebrating my one-year anniversary here with the City of Manitou Springs. As such, I want to begin this article by expressing my ongoing appreciation to the City Council, our amazing staff and to the community in general for continuing to allow me to serve as your city administrator.

The first year has definitely been a bit of a wild ride, with no shortage of challenges. The job continues to be as fulfilling now as it was on Day One, however, and I'm excited to see what the next year brings.

In terms of the current year, as everyone knows, as we climbed out of the winter months, it brought rain — lots and lots of rain. We at City Hall realize that, with this excessive precipitation, many of you endured losses either to your own property or to assets that are crucial to how you access or make use of your property

— e.g. roads, bridges, trails, etc.

No doubt, the damage wrought this spring was not as dramatic as that suffered two summers ago. As we continue to assess the impacts this year's weather has had throughout the community, however, we respect that steady, sustained rains can inflict even more harm than flooding events upon certain structures such as long-standing retaining walls and culverts.

As of press time, we are still awaiting word whether the damages suffered throughout the state this spring will warrant a presidential



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— Jason S. Wells



disaster declaration, thereby freeing up significant dollars for repair and remediation work. As we await this determination, however, we are carefully committing what local resources we can to the highest priorities while strategizing for what to do in the event we are not thrown a state and/or federal lifeline.

Though the City has been successful in obtaining many millions of dollars in grant-awarded recovery funding in recent years, these revenue streams are not infinite and, at some point, the City will need to strategize on how to meet the extraordinary needs with somewhat

ordinary resources.

Though the influx of marijuana-related revenue is undeniably significant, when it comes to rebuilding historic bridges or replacing washed-out roads, even the sum annual revenues realized from this sector represent a mere drop in the proverbial bucket. Depending on whether state/federal assistance dollars are available going forward, City Council may have to pursue alternate local financing tools such as special or general improvement districts to address various unmet needs across the City. If so, they would require the strong support of the affected property owners to be viable. If your property has been negatively impacted by weather events this year or could be in the future, please stay tuned to City Council deliberations as the year progresses.

Again, it has been my absolute pleasure to have served this unparalleled community throughout this first year and I look forward to diving headlong into the second!

Flood Recovery



Shelley Cobau,
Flood Recovery Manager

With May of 2015 being the wettest month on record in our region, many areas of the City infrastructure were significantly damaged. Staff from the state Office of Emergency Management and FEMA toured damages, and staff prepared Preliminary Damage Assessments for 60 points of damage.

Gov. John Hickenlooper declared a State Disaster and, on July 9, he asked

President Obama for a Federal Disaster Declaration. This Presidential Declaration would help pay for damages to public infrastructure across the state of Colorado.

Residents who had flooded basements or other damages from the rains can seek individual assistance by calling the United Way at 211 or by contacting Dennis Belz at the Southern Baptist Charities at 720-244-1601.

The Williams Canyon drainage project, Phase I and Phase II are fully completed!

On May 27, City officials joined Gov. Hickenlooper, delegates from multiple state and federal agencies, and relieved residents in celebrating the

completion of this project.

This project improves flood resiliency not only for residents on the Narrows and Cañon Avenue, but for homes and businesses along Fountain Creek below the Williams Creek and Fountain Creek confluence — in areas where sediment and debris from the Waldo Canyon fire burn scar had

accumulated and caused damage.

On June 29, the Department of Local Affairs confirmed it will grant \$643,300 to the City for Flood Recovery staff capacity building. A grants

administrator, construction observer and two project managers will be hired to assist with the oversight of upcoming flood recovery-related construction projects and to apply for additional grant funding.

Additionally, this grant covers the expense of leasing modular office space, which will be placed at the existing Public Services Facility at 101 Banks Ave. by Aug. 1.

Such grants and Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief Funding and Emergency Watershed Protection Funding will allow the new flood recovery team to effectively improve Manitou Springs' resiliency in future flood events.

Monsoon season here is typically July through September; residents are encouraged to stay vigilant and heed all warnings from the National Weather Service and Manitou Springs Police Department.

Police Department



By Officer O. Saglimbeni,
Public Information Officer

Most thefts from motor vehicles are "crimes of opportunity" that could be prevented by taking some simple steps. Due to a recent influx in auto break-ins, the Manitou Springs Police Department would like to share some preventative measures.

Don't leave valuables in your vehicle. If they're visible, the chances your vehicle will get broken into increase significantly.

Place items out of sight before reaching your destination. Someone may be watching when you put your valuables under a seat. If you can't take the items with you, secure them in a safe place in your vehicle, such as a locked glove compartment or the trunk.

Avoid leaving packages or shopping bags out in the open. If you have to leave your vehicle unattended, lock them in your trunk. Never open a trunk, fill it full of valuables, close it and then just walk away.

Lock ALL of your vehicle's doors and make sure the vehicle windows aren't left open. This is true even if you plan on only being gone for "just a second." It takes only seconds to steal items from your car. It's not uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles checking for unlocked doors.

Park in busy, well-lit areas. Try to

pick a parking spot in a busy area.

Don't leave a trace! Don't leave any sign that there might be valuables out of sight in your vehicle. Very few auto break-ins are "random." Thieves usually see something out in the open or hints of possible hidden valuables. Even if drivers remember to stash electronic devices, they too often forget about the telltale accessories that tip off intruders, such as power plugs, iPod adapters, navigation systems and windshield suction-cup mounts. Place these giveaways out of sight, too.

Alarms or anti-theft devices work. Thieves are usually looking for the easiest target. If your car has an alarm, it could act as a deterrent. Don't make the common mistake that, just because you have an alarm, thieves won't break in if you leave valuable items in plain sight.

Don't leave spare keys in your vehicle. An experienced thief knows all the hiding places. Store spare keys elsewhere.

These tips may seem obvious, but sometimes when drivers are rushing or distracted, common sense can falter. Two out of every five people don't hide their valuables in vehicles. One-quarter leave a wallet or purse inside, and one-half display mail in their car. If any of these items are taken, the vehicle owner not only faces property loss, but also potential identity theft.

Fire Department



By John K. Forsett,
Fire Chief

Let's get right to it by saying, to you and to them, that I could not be more proud of the men and women of the Manitou Springs Fire Department!

The Fourth of July always involves a tremendous effort by your firefighters. Each year, firefighters spend a tremendous amount of time in the days and weeks leading up to the Fourth of July pre-planning for the extensive needs of the day. This involves working with other agencies and City departments to help safeguard citizens and visitors by developing suppression responses and preparing the platform for launching the fireworks. Firefighters also prepare the fireworks and collect donations to pay for the event.

On each Fourth of July firefighters divide forces to put their pre-planning into action and conquer the day's busy schedule.

Unfortunately, on this Fourth of July the alleged actions of a single individual forced firefighters to rejoin forces and meet an additional and unscheduled challenge – a fully involved structure fire! Not only was this fire already fully involving a very dangerous three-story structure with five units and possible trapped victims reported, but it had also already impinged on the building next door (of



Photos by Rhonda Van Pelt

the same type and description), and was entering the attic space of that building.

Your firefighters did one heck of a job! After 4 ½ solid hours of work, they put all the equipment back in service in preparation of the next alarm, dusted off the soil and washed their faces, and then put on another spectacular Fourth of July fireworks display for Manitou's citizens and visitors.

I would be remiss to not mention how thankful I am for our Police Department and other local law

enforcement agencies, and how important they were to us through this day. Their cooperative efforts underscored how important it is for us to come together as public safety entities to successfully protect our community. Additionally, I want to applaud the efforts and cooperation of other agencies, which included Manitou Springs Public Works, Crystal Park Fire Department, Green Mountain Falls Fire Department, Colorado Springs Fire Department, American Medical Response, Red Cross, El Paso County Wildland

Team, Colorado Springs Utilities Wildland Team and Pikes Peak Firefighters Association Rehab Unit.

Your firefighters seem to be getting fairly solid and consistent workouts these days on the Incline. Since 2015 started, Manitou Springs firefighters, along with El Paso County Search and Rescue personnel, have responded to 28 incidents either on the Incline or on Barr Trail below the Incline summit. These incidents generally involve injuries from slips and falls, but on numerous occasions, very serious illnesses and even deaths are resulting from this extreme exercise opportunity. Although it's become very apparent from our interactions that the Incline has become a destination or day trip for folks from all over the state, the Fire Department would still like to ask the public to recognize the inherent risk of this activity and properly plan and prepare for its complications so that these incidents become the exception.

Fortunately, when these incidents do occur, Manitou Springs Firefighters and El Paso County Search and Rescue personnel have established an extremely good working relationship and have created a tried and true base of actions to build upon for timely and effective patient contact and rescue.

There are always great things going on at the Fire Department. Feel free to stop by.

Manitou Pool & Fitness Center



By Roy Chaney,
Aquatics Director

The pool had a cold start to the summer season with a wet and cool May. However, June was a strong month with more than 250 patrons a day coming through the doors.

In June, we also participated in the World's Largest Swimming Lesson with other swimming pools around the country to break the Guinness Book of World Records. We broke our 2014 record with more than 50 participants. We will know soon if we'll be part of a new world record and in the process teach parents the importance of swimming lessons to prevent childhood drowning.

Our swimming lessons are doing well this summer with more than 1,400 children taking lessons in June alone. Aqua-aerobics is strong with 20-plus students in each class. The Colorado Torpedoes swim team is maintaining a solid team with 88 swimmers. The team was featured in one of the top online swim magazines in the country (Swim Swam) with its unique training program and success in Manitou Springs.

The Fitness class remains steady with up to 20 students in both sessions (morning and evening). Fitness room attendance is steady and recently we worked on eliminating the ceiling leaks during storms. We are experiencing only minor leaks now

and when the wet weather subsides, there are still a few areas that need sealing to completely fix the problem.

Finally, staff was trained at our annual summer orientation in May and training continues with monthly in-service and mock rescue practice. Facility supervisors and I attended a water safety seminar in May and updated our skills in accident prevention and staff training/safety around swimming pools.

The following maintenance is completed monthly:

- Shower mats cleaned;
- Cleaned air filters and changed belts;
- Hosed and sanitized pool deck;
- Daily general cleaning;
- Offices deep cleaned and reorganized;
- Outside areas swept and power washed.

Come check out some of our programs, which include:

- Beyond Fitness offers several weight training/fitness classes at the pool's weight room;
- American Red Cross swim lessons (private and group);
- Aqua-aerobics;
- Yoga;
- Colorado Torpedoes Competitive Swim Team;



- CPR, first aid and lifeguard training;
- Lap swimming and open swim in our OZONE pool;
- Relax in our ozone hot tub;
- Baby pool for children age 6 and younger.

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