



The Perry Park

Sentinel

DECEMBER 2019

Christmas
By M.E. Miro

**Christmas is more than a day in December
It's all of those things that we love to remember
Its carolers singing familiar refrains
Bright colored stockings and shiny toy trains
Streamers of tinsel and glass satin balls
Laughter that rings through the house and its halls
Christmas is more than a day in December
Its the magic and the love
That we'll always remember**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
MERRY CHRISTMAS,
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

To all our readers from
the *Sentinel* staff



LARKSPUR TREE LIGHTING will take place at the Larkspur Community Park on Saturday, December 7, 4 p.m.-dusk. See over 40 trees light up all at once. There will be hayrides, hot drinks, Santa, caroling, bonfire

and more. Bring your children to create a FREE make and take craft with local crafters and Artists, Barbara Mathern and Ruth Stotts. This event is co-sponsored by the town of Larkspur and the Larkspur Chamber of Commerce. For more information on how to sponsor a tree, Contact Peggy Whalen at 303-681-3705 or text: 720-217-3478.

LARKSPUR COMMUNITY PARK, CRAFT FAIR: December 14 in the large pavilion, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Make and take a craft with local activity artists or purchase a craft for that last-minute holiday gift. Crafter availability still open. Contact Ruth Ann Arfsten, Activity Coordinator, at 303-681-2324, or email rarfsten@townoflarkspur.org to reserve a space. Limited cabin availability left for this event!

BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, December 17, 10 a.m., at the home of Melissa Lucas, 4946 Delaware Drive in Perry Park Ranch. The book for discussion is *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly, a novel set in WWII. The book for January is *Educated* by Tara Westover, her personal history of a girl who grew up among survivalists in Idaho without formal schooling, left home to study at Brigham Young University, and later achieved a Ph.D. in history from Cambridge University in England. Both books are part of the Douglas Libraries Book Club Express program so copies are available from the reading group. For additional information, contact Carrie Murdoch, carriejeanmurdoch@gmail.com.

DEER AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Not even Thanksgiving yet and already several deer have been spotted with Christmas lights dangling from their antlers and even wrapped around their legs. Please don't put lights in low shrubs (like scrub oak). Try to keep them high enough that deer won't accidentally pull them down and get entangled!

LARKSPUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL has received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award from the Colorado Department of Education. This award is given to schools that demonstrate exceptional student growth. On the school performance framework that is used by the state to evaluate schools, these schools exceed expectations on the indicator related to longitudinal academic growth and meet or exceed expectations on the indicator related to academic growth gaps.

THE LARKSPUR FREE LIBRARY (LFL) is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursdays, 3-6 p.m.. This community library is truly unique in all of Colorado. We have over 10,000 FREE adult books – fiction (ladies' romance to classics) and non-fiction (history, crafts, true crime and more); 900 FREE movies (DVDs and blu-ray); 600 FREE kid's books (picture books, young readers of all levels, and young adult);

dozens of FREE audio books; FREE games, puzzles, and toys, all sorted and organized for ease of browsing. And no price tags, no check-out lines, no cards, no due dates, no overdue fines. LFL is located at 9524 Spruce Mountain Road, on the east side of the road. Plenty of parking, and of course, we always gladly accept donations. For more information, contact Cindy at 303-681-3046 or Krystine at 413-348-3579.

FROM PARKS AND WILDLIFE: On Friday, November 15, a Perry Park resident discovered a dead deer along Echo Gap Road. Given the condition of the animal they believed the animal may have been poached and contacted local law enforcement who in turn contacted a Colorado wildlife officer, the experts in these incidents. The wildlife officer responded and after a field necropsy determined the animal had died as a result of penetrating injuries consistent with being gored by another deer. During these winter months many deer and other wildlife congregate in Perry Park. If you see an animal that appears to have a life-threatening injury or illness please contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 303-291-7227 during business hours or via State Patrol 303-239-4501 outside normal business hours. Colorado Parks and Wildlife appreciates and values the cooperation of your community to help conserve wildlife.

NORTH POLE CRAFT FAIR IN MONUMENT: December 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the old Grace Best Elementary on Jefferson Street. Holiday craft fair put on by Monument Hills Kiwanis.

THE TOWN OF LARKSPUR WAS GIFTED SIX LOG CABINS and two yurts by the Jellystone Campground that will be available for activity rentals as well as the park pavilions which will have drop down curtains and heating units. Plans call for aligning the log cabins along the south side of the Town Hall Complex, with a walkway along the units and landscaping to create a small country community atmosphere. Bids are out for concrete pads where the yurts will be established with a joining corridor to make a small event center. As plans are developed there will be more information available. Contact Ruth Ann Arfsten, rarfsten@townoflarkspur.org, to discuss using the structures.



LET EVERY DAY BE CHRISTMAS

*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.*

The good you do for others is good you do yourself.
— Norman Wesley Brooks

**CHANUKAH 2019:
NIGHTFALL ON DECEMBER 22 -
NIGHTFALL ON DECEMBER 30**



Why is Chanukah (Hanukkah) eight nights long?

The *Talmud* asks and answers: The sages taught: On the 25th of Kislev, the days of Chanukah are eight. One may not eulogize on them, and one may not fast on them. This is because when the Greeks entered the Sanctuary, they defiled all the oils that were in the Sanctuary. And when the Chashmonean monarchy overcame them and emerged victorious over them, they searched and found only

one cruse of oil that remained with the seal of the High Priest. And there was sufficient oil there to light the candelabrum for only one day. A miracle occurred, and they lit the candelabrum from it for eight days. The next year, the sages instituted those days and made them holidays with the recitation of Hallel and prayers of thanksgiving.

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
FROM LARKSPUR ELEMENTARY PTO**

Larkspur Elementary School's PTO is proud to once again offer three college scholarships, each for \$1000.



There are a mind-boggling number of scholarships available, but very few are like the ones offered by our school. Why are these different from other scholarships? It's because *only* Douglas County School District seniors who graduated 6th grade at Larkspur Elementary are eligible to apply. With such a small number of eligible students, the chances of winning are greatly increased!

The link below will take you to the PTO website which details all the information regarding these awards and their history, the application requirements and deadline (February 19, 2020), and other pertinent details concerning eligibility: <https://www.larkspurpto.org/p/scholarship-information.html>.

Larkspur Elementary PTO is pleased to offer these scholarships and would be thrilled to contribute to the ongoing educational journey of our former Bobcats. Please don't hesitate to contact

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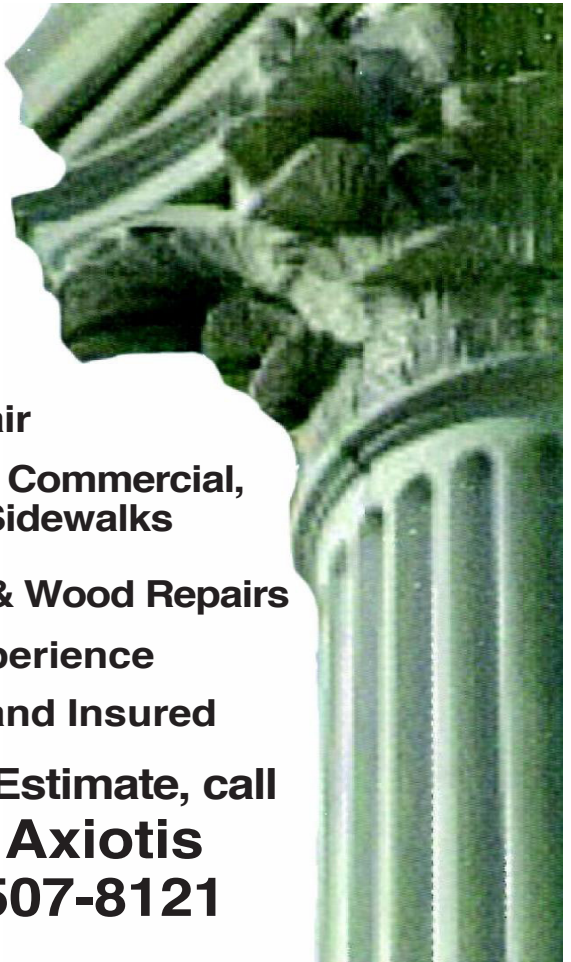
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SCHOLARSHIPS Continued from page 3

Sally Erickson, Scholarship Chair (serickson@dcsdk12.org), with any questions you may have. The Scholarship Committee looks forward to receiving your application.

Go Bobcats and Class of 2020!

~S. Erickson

MEET SANTA LUNCHEON!



When: December 17th, 12-3 p.m.

Where: Larkspur Fire House, 9414 S Spruce Mountain Road in Larkspur, CO

What: Pot luck lunch, Cookie Decorating Station, Ornament Making/decorating station. Gift Exchange and of course SANTA!!!! Please Bring a Children's gift valued up to \$10 for a fun gift exchange between the kids.

Please RSVP By December 13th to Jenn Grubb at 720-333-6755

Event is free, donations for the Larkspur Mom's Group always welcome. If interested in helping with the Pot Luck or any other part of the event, just let me know!!!



THE LARKSPUR BLANKET BRIGADE has been very busy making Christmas quilts for the Castle Rock Adventist Hospital and New Century Hospice. Our group makes quilts for anyone experiencing trauma, loss, adversity, or illness. We began our group in 2015 with four ladies and we have grown to 15 dedicated souls. We are able to create and give away 300

quilts each year. If you know of anyone in need of a little extra comfort, contact us at Gwen Underwood at gwenspur@icloud.com, 303-681-2125, or Cindy Hotaling at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com, 303-681-0374. We will arrange to get a quilt to you. We are a 501(c)3 and we operate mainly with donations of fabric. If you have any extra fabric, batting or yarn, please consider donating to our group. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Perry Park Country Club. You do not need any special sewing skills because we only do the tying of the quilts when we meet. All you need to know how to do is thread a needle, so come join us! ~GSanders

IN MEMORIAM



Harold Lee Anderson

June 19, 1929 –

November 3, 2019

On November 3, 2019, Harold L. Anderson, a resident of Perry Park for 46 years (the place that he never wanted to leave), left us for a better place. He leaves behind a legacy and reputation for being someone whom you felt fortunate to have crossed paths with. He was a devoted hus-

band, father, grandfather, and very proudly a great grandfather to five girls. Harold leaves behind a family that grew up with the respect and care that he had for his wife and children that truly influenced their lives.

He also served for a number of years on the Perry Park Water and Sanitation Board, leaving a legacy of well managed water usage to the entire Water District.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dru Anderson, and their children: Carrie Mikelson (deceased), married to Randy Mikelson and their children Sara and Riley, and his wife Bree and their children Lilly, Macy, and Emery; Amy Tenn, married to Steven Tenn, and their children Nicole, Ashlee, and Calvin Nelson, and his wife Ashley Nelson and their children Isabelle and Lilah; and Hal Anderson, married to Christy Anderson and their children Rachel and Ryan.

Harold was a proprietor of HLA Royalties LLC, operating as an independent Lease Broker in the Oil & Gas industry for over 60 years in Colorado. He was inducted into the Denver Association of Petroleum Landmen Hall of Fame: <https://dapldenver.org/>. It is an exceptional honor to receive that level of recognition. Harold was a trusted business man whose reputation and integrity preceded him. Everybody Harold came into contact with will remember him because of his willingness to listen, to help people, and for his generosity. Harold will be missed and remembered by so many, and we love him deeply. The family will be having a private gathering to celebrate Harold's life. If you would like to participate in the celebration, we would invite

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IN MEMORIUM Continued from page 4

you to leave a comment below for Harold's family and friends to enjoy.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/castle-rock-co/harold-anderson-8915665>

Contributions in memory of Harold Anderson to the Douglas Land Conservancy would be appreciated.

Ret. Colonel Sherwin G. Desens June 25, 1921--October 27, 2019

Retired Colonel Sherwin "Butch" Desens died peacefully on Sunday, October 27, 2019, in Aurora, Colorado. He was 98 years old.

He was born in Union Hill, Illinois, on June 25, 1921, and graduated from Reddick High School in 1939. He attended the University of Illinois in Urbana before volunteering for military service in 1942 after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In WW2 he flew 70 missions in P-47's with the 362nd fighter group in England. He survived a mid-air collision and bailed out of his plane three times, the third time near Vire, France, where he was captured as a POW. He was freed from Stalag Luft 1 Barth Germany May, 1945. A 2018 documentary titled "25 Steps" produced by Steffan Tubbs features the life of Butch and Bob McAdams and their friendship and connection to Stalag Luft 1 POW camp, a truly amazing story.

He married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Walsh in July of 1945. They moved to Janesville, Wisconsin, and started a family before he reenlisted in the Air Force. He flew air rescue in the Korean War, DCO for 9th bomb wing flying B-47s. After attending the national war college, he became Wing Commander for the 43rd Bomb Wing flying B-58's at Little Rock AFB in including B52 missions during Vietnam. His decorations included The Silver Star, The Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air medal with 12 Oak leaf Clusters, and the Croix de Guerre of France/

Retiring in 1973, he and Marilyn designed and built a home in Perry Park, Colorado. He spent his time golfing, skiing, taking in Rockies games, spending winters in Arizona, helping family and friends whenever they needed it and going to many grandchild related events. They moved to Wind Crest in Highlands Ranch in 2007.

Butch was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marilyn (2016). He will be deeply missed by his two children Nancy and Paul (Lynn), 5 grandchildren Rachael (Tyler), Danny (Tara), John (Lindsey), Kelly (Mike), Michelle (John) and 7 great grandchildren Christopher, David, Landon, Lee, Celia, Madison and Reagan.

Donations in his name can be made to the American Red Cross.

NEIGHBORHOODS ADJACENT TO JELLYSTONE QUESTION PROPOSAL TO BUILD A WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

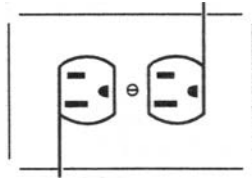
Carol Alpiner...

In July Sun RV Resorts (owner of Jellystone Park in Larkspur) submitted a proposal to the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to build a new waste water treatment plant at the Jellystone campground to accommodate expansion of the park. At the same time, a notification sign was posted at the construction site to advise concerned and/or impacted parties. One of the neighbors residing behind the campground spotted the sign in late August and the information was shared via social media. According to the map in the application from Sun RV Resorts, the site of the plant appears to be very close to the intersection of Tenderfoot and Kenosha in the Sage Port neighborhood; however, the actual proposed location is closer to the railroad tracks and Interstate 25.

The neighborhoods behind Jellystone have been vocal in previous years regarding the campground expansion and were especially concerned when they learned the campground would now also include a waste water treatment plant. Sun RV Resorts initially communicated their commitment to work with the Town of Larkspur to rebuild the Town's waste water treatment plant to accommodate the expanded campground. This plan met the capacity needs for the campground expansion while also providing a much-needed upgrade to an old and outdated plant currently serving the Town of Larkspur.

After neighbors of the campground learned of the new proposal, a meeting was scheduled on Wednesday November 13th and over 90 local residents attended along with Blaine Garrett from Atwell Group (engineering firm designing the plant), Dan Wcislo of Alan Plummer Associates (architects for the plant), and representatives from CDPHE Amy Zimmerman and Emily Wong. Following presentations covering details of the project and the process for state approval, the floor was then open for Q&A and comments/concerns from neighbors. While the meeting organizers were able to get Garrett and Wcislo to attend, it is worth noting they were unable to get a response from Sun RV Resorts which, to date, has failed to respond to phone calls

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electric

Pete Dunbar

1341 Quartz Mountain Drive
Larkspur, Colorado 80118
303-681-3809
Cell 303-638-6762

TREATMENT PLANT Continued from page 5

made to the number provided on the public posting.

The primary issues that surfaced during this meeting include:

- Concerns as to why the Town of Larkspur is no longer taking responsibility for rebuilding their plant for their newly annexed campground property as originally agreed upon and communicated.
- The proposed size of the plant appears to be insufficient to meet the State of Colorado requirements and the estimated peak flows.
- There are ongoing design challenges due to soil type in the area including the potential for blockages due to gravel or silt which would ultimately require regular pumping of the area.
- Lack of consideration of consolidating plants which the State of Colorado encourages to minimize the number of plants. In this case there will be 3 plants in an approximately a 3-mile radius. It does not appear Sun RV Resorts has attempted to leverage or work with Perry Park Water and Sanitation District on potential consolidation.
- Uncertainty surrounding the ability for a private entity to effectively and responsibly build and manage a waste water treatment plan. Neighbors have a concern that Sun RV Resorts may not be responsive to operational issues. Further, with three waste water treatment plants in such close proximity there is a concern the plant owners may point fingers when issues arise.
- Potential odors or vermin associated with the facility and the processing of waste from 500 campsites, a water park, and an indoor activity center are a concern.

A follow up meeting for neighbors to address November inputs to CDPHE and receive a project update will be scheduled, most likely in January.

The Perry Park Sentinel does not publish in January. The next issue will be out on February 1, 2020. Deadline for copy is January 20.

Happy New Year!



CHRISTMAS NOW SURROUNDS US
Christmas now surrounds us,
Happiness is everywhere
Our hands are busy with many tasks
As carols fill the air.
— Shirley Sallay

NOVEMBER NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT

Jim Matchett...



The November meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District (PPW&SD) began promptly at 4:30 p.m. on the 13th with only three directors present, but that was enough for a quorum. Directors Peterson and Maras had received excused absences. The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the October 16th regular board meeting and that approval was unanimous. Disbursements totaling \$158,455.64 were then reviewed and also approved unanimously.

Next, an Agreement for Services-Operations 2020 with Semcor, Inc. was introduced and discussed. A motion was then made and the new agreement unanimously approved. The draft 2020 Budget was once again reviewed. An initial draft of this budget was originally presented to the board and discussed at their regularly scheduled meeting in September. The draft was subsequently further discussed at the regularly scheduled board meeting in October. The draft of the 2020 Budget will be finalized and approved by the board in the Budget Hearing during the scheduled December meeting. As always, the Budget Hearing is open to all residents of the district.

A request to the district for assistance with repairs to a sewer service line had been received. After review and discussion by the board, since the district policy is that homeowners are responsible for repairs to their sewer service lines, the request was denied. The District Systems Report for October submitted by Semcor was then reviewed. All operations across the district were normal, while water sales were almost 29 percent higher than those of October, 2018. The Monthly Staff Report, submitted by District Manager Diana Miller, was then reviewed and briefly discussed. The board was advised that two qualified bids for the Sage Port Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project had been received and the award would be to the low bidder.

There was no audience participation, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. As always, further information is available on the District website, www.ppwsd.org.

NEWS FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Cindy Applegate,
Secretary-Board of Directors...



CALL REVIEW: Between January 1, 2019, and October 31, 2019, LFPD ran a total of 1,033 calls compared to 877 calls for the same time frame in 2018, an increase of 156 calls (15.10 percent). In the Gap Project area be-

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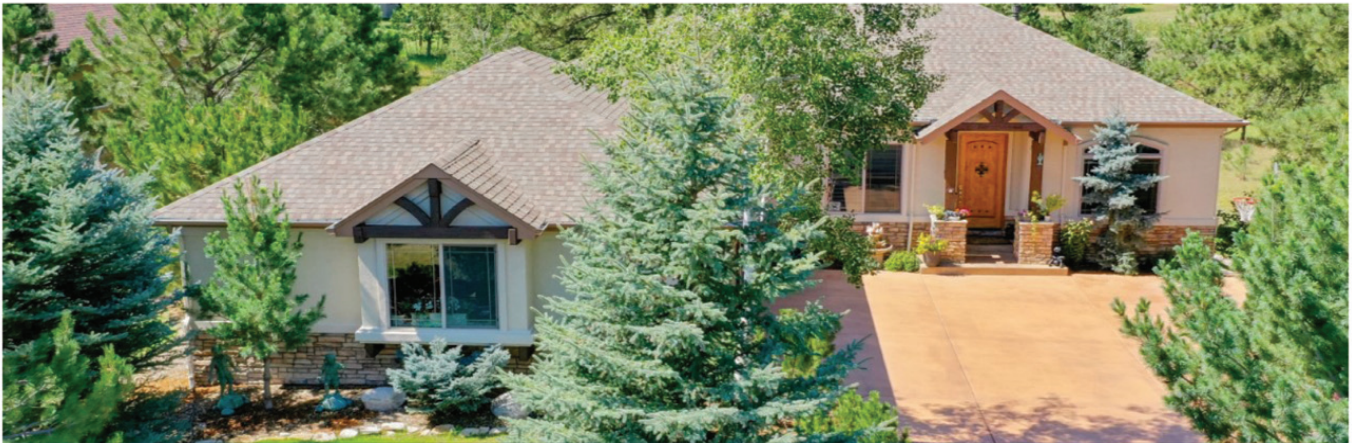


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684 INDEPENDENCE DRIVE | HIDDEN FOREST | OFFERED AT \$699,900 | JUST SOLD!



5716 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE | PERRY PARK | OFFERED AT \$809,000 | 1 ACRE WITH STUNNING VIEWS!



7128 FOX CIRCLE | PERRY PARK | OFFERED AT \$510,000 | SOLD IN 3 DAYS!



1562 PENINSULA CIRCLE | PLUM CREEK | OFFERED AT \$540,000 | JUST SOLD!



5741 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE | PERRY PARK | OFFERED AT \$124,000 | JUST SOLD!



7249 PERRY PARK BLVD. | PERRY PARK | OFFERED AT \$574,900 | JUST SOLD!

ELIZABETH OWENS has a reputation centered on residential, high-end and acreage properties in Larkspur, Castle Rock and throughout Douglas County. For the past 15 years, Elizabeth and her team, the Elite Group, have been providing **Top-of-the-Line Service with Bottom-Line Results** to both Buyers and Sellers. Elizabeth Owens is a Master Certified Negotiation Expert, Certified Residential Specialist, Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist and is a graduate of the Realtor Institute. Elizabeth Owens is a Broker/Owner at RE/MAX Alliance in Castle Pines. View the virtual tours for these homes and all Elizabeth's listings at ElizabethOwens.net **Thinking about Selling? Call Elizabeth today!**

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tween January 1 and October 31 the district ran a total of 468 calls compared to 340 calls for the same time frame in 2018; an increase of 128 calls (27.53 percent). For the entire year of 2018 LFPD ran 411 calls in the Gap Project area. That's 57 calls less from the beginning of this year through October 31st in this area. This increase in calls is due to the gap construction operations; however, that doesn't account for the possibility of increased call volumes on alternate routes. The Gap is obviously a problem that's causing an increase in unfunded service demands on LFPD which actively trying to work with CDOT to minimize the impact on LFPD.

October 2019 Call Review:

Between October 1 and October 31, 2019 LFPD ran a total of 95 calls compared to 115 calls for the same time frame in 2018; a decrease of 20 calls (-17.39 percent).

Fires: Total of 3 calls

1. Passenger Vehicle Fire: 1 (in-district)
2. Smoke investigation, nothing found: 2 (in-district)

EMS: Total of 43 calls

1. Medicals: 24 (in-district)
- MVA's with Injuries 19 (17 in-district, 2 mutual-aid)

Alarms: Total of 3 calls:

- 1 Fire alarm system malfunction: 2 (in-district)
 2. Carbon monoxide detector malfunction: 1 (in-district)
- Other: Total of 46 calls (41 in-district, 5 mutual aid)

Don't forget to take advantage of LFPD's program to have a wildfire risk analysis of your property. Call the Fire Marshal at 303-681-3284 for more details and to set up an appointment. LFPD will now be offering CPR classes for district residents on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. Those who are interested should call the station at 303-681-3284 to register for the class and get additional information.

The next scheduled meeting of the District Board is Thursday, December 12, 7 p.m. at Station 161 in Larkspur. The meetings are open to the public.

HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY THOUGHTS



The holiday season should be a time for family, friends, and relaxation, not a time to stress about a fire in your home. Residential fires increase during the holiday season and usually end up being more costly and deadly than any other time of the

year. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) reports more than double the number of open-flame fires on Christmas Day than

on an average day and about twice as many on New Year's Day. The LFPD has gathered some safety tips to keep your household safe this season and to keep your holiday cheer at an all-time high.

Decorative Lights

The best step you can take to make sure your decorative lights won't cause a fire is to inspect the light strings and throw out any with frayed or cracked wires or broken sockets. Stacking the plugs is a safer option than trying to string lights end to end. You'll also want to check your extension cords to make sure that they are in good condition.

When hanging outdoor lights avoid using nails or staples, which can damage the wiring and increase the risk of a fire. You can instead use UL-rated clips or hangers. If you are using ladders to hang lights, make sure you have another person to anchor the ladder for you.

Cooking

According to the USFA, cooking is the main cause of holiday fires, especially when food is left unattended. The kitchen is the heart of the home and can become the place where everyone is hanging out, so we understand that it is easy to become distracted. If you have to leave the room, bring a potholder with you as a reminder that you have something on the stove. It is important to have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen and to check that all smoke detectors are working. If you plan on deep-frying a turkey, make sure to do it outside, on a flat, level surface at least 10 feet from the house and not on your wooden deck.

Christmas Trees

Did you know that it only takes 30 seconds for a dry tree to engulf a room in flames? It's very important to make sure that you keep your tree away from combustible furniture, heaters, wood stoves and fire places.

Whether a fresh cut tree or a one from a sales lot, find one with moist supple needles (even live trees can be dry), put a fresh cut on the trunk bottom and soak the cut end in a five-gallon bucket of water for 24 hours before bringing the tree into your home. Water it every day as a well-watered tree is more difficult to ignite. Remember that even a well-watered tree will start to dry out after a few days due to our lack of humidity and especially if you have forced air heat in your home. Take it down right after the holidays and properly dispose of it to minimize risk. Most artificial trees have minimal fire hazard; just make sure yours is flame-retardant.

Candles

Decorative candles are a part of the holiday season in many homes. According to the National Fire Protection Association, December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. Make sure your candle is in a sturdy holder designed for the task, never leave a lit candle unattended, keep candles well away from combustibles including decorations (you may want to rethink that table centerpiece with the candles, pinecones, ribbon, holly

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LFPD Continued from page 8

etc. – you know the one), snuff the candle prior to going to sleep and make sure that candles are out of reach of children and pets. Nothing like a flaming cat running through the family room to wake up Uncle Fred in the recliner!

Please take a minute to view this video demonstrating a candle ignited fire and the fire behavior difference between a well-watered tree and a dry tree – it's shocking. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCujD8j6lig>

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND US?

Wade Frary...

Colorado Springs:

It seems that with all the recent expansion and development, Castle Rock is becoming a “bedroom community” for both Denver and Colorado Springs. Let's take a look at what's going on in the North end of Colorado Springs.



Some consider it great news that the California-based chain **In-N-Out Burgers** is coming to Colorado. Specifically, their regional headquarters and distribution center for a Tri-State area will be located in Colorado Springs. The site preparation work follows In-



N-Out's November 2017 announcement that it would expand to Colorado and locate a regional headquarters in Colorado Springs at Victory Ridge. The sprawling mixed-use development covers 153 acres southeast of InterQuest and Voyager parkways, about a mile east of Interstate 25. “Late 2020 continues to be our target for completion of the distribution center and opening of our first stores in Colorado, says” Carl Arena, In-N-Out's real estate and development vice president. In-N-Out's 100,000-square-foot distribution and production facilities will be built on Victory Ridge's northeast side and will serve its Colorado restaurants including a 4,772-square-foot location at InterQuest and Voyager that the chain says will be the first to open in the state. In-N-Out also plans a 150,000-square-foot office building at Victory Ridge in a future phase.

It's too early to speculate how many In-N-Out restaurants will be built in Colorado; however, top management acknowledges through recent Denver news media reports that In-N-Out is considering a location near the Park Meadows Mall in Lone Tree. There is also speculation that site selection in Castle Rock is in the planning stages, but nothing has been announced. The media just announced this week that In-N-Out plans to open a store in Fort Collins very near the new football stadium in Fort Collins.

Launched more than a decade ago and originally called Colo-

rado Crossing, the **Victory Ridge project** was envisioned with 1.6 million square feet of stores, restaurants and offices, 1,600 residences and a 14-screen theater complex. But Colorado Crossing's developer fell into financial trouble and couldn't pay more than \$30 million to dozens of contractors and sub-contractors. Work stopped in 2008 when a handful of Colorado Crossing buildings were left unfinished and the project's development company filed for bankruptcy in 2010. In October 2016 they renamed the project, Victory Ridge. Then In-N-Out Burger completed land purchase in Colorado Springs for their first Colorado restaurant and distribution facilities. Now that Colorado Springs' economy has picked up steam and its population is surging, especially on the city's north and northeast sides, Westside is seeing plenty of activity at Victory Ridge.

For its part, Westside plans to construct a 13,000-square-foot, multi-tenant building that's expected to accommodate five retailers and restaurants, just south of In-N-Out's eatery at InterQuest and Voyager, Moore said. The building will open about the same time as In-N-Out's restaurant. A key addition to the site will be the installation of a traffic signal at InterQuest Parkway and Creek Bed Place on Victory Ridge's north side.

The signal will allow vehicles driving north out of Victory Ridge to turn west onto InterQuest Parkway — a key for In-N-Out trucks seeking to reach I-25. The signal also will allow westbound traffic on InterQuest to turn south into Victory Ridge. A 264-unit apartment complex will be built on the North side of this project.

Among other projects now taking shape:

The Carpathia-Mission Hill partnership plans to complete a four-story office building and a pair of two-story office and retail buildings that flank the Icon Cinemas movie theater complex that opened in late 2017. The Offices at Victory Ridge, as the three buildings will be called, will have a total of nearly 130,000 square feet. The buildings are expected to be completed in about a year. The area includes thousands of apartments and homes with high-income households; shopping centers such as InterQuest Marketplace and InterQuest Commons; Bal Seal Engineering, Ford Motor Credit and other employers; several new hotels; and fast-casual and sit-down restaurants, stores and service-oriented businesses.

National Healthcare Realty, a health care brokerage and development firm based in Denver, has contracted to purchase three parcels in Victory Ridge, where it plans a pair of 40,000-square-foot medical buildings and a wellness-oriented hotel. The sites are along Voyager Parkway, south of Westside's planned retail building. Completion of the purchase and groundbreaking on the first building are targeted for the first quarter of next year, with construction to be finished in late 2020.

Builder Lokal Homes of Englewood, which bought land this year at Victory Ridge, has started construction on a 221-unit townhome project. An initial building is targeted for completion by year's end, according to a Lokal spokeswoman. The

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two- and three-bedroom townhomes will start at \$289,990 - \$317,990, although the prices are subject to change.

New Mexico-based **Icon Cinemas**, which opened its movie theater complex two years ago with 14 screens, plans to add a 15th theater whose 106-foot tall screen will be the largest in Colorado. Sporting goods store **SCHEELS** is breaking ground on a new store in Colorado Springs in the Interquest Marketplace at the intersection of Federal Drive and New Life Drive. The footprint of this store is huge! There is a Scheels in Johnstown, Colorado at the Highway 34 exit, just East of I-25. It was the first of it's kind for Colorado. It is very popular and well attended by locals. The store will feature 220,000 square feet of retail space when it opens in April 2021. It will also have 75 specialty shops, top brand name wear and even a 65-foot Ferris Wheel all under one roof and will employ more than 350 associates.

As you can see, there is a lot of development planned just South of Castle Rock and I've barely touched the surface. More to come in future articles.

Castle Rock:

The company, TerraForm has submitted a Site Development Plan to the City of Castle Rock for the proposed construction of a new **Jiffy Lube** service center which will be located off Meadows Parkway and Regent Street. Their plans include construction of a new 5,000 square foot building with typical architectural styles like other Jiffy Lube stores.

The existing **First Bank**, located on the corner of Wilcox and Fifth Street, is undergoing a major renovation to their banking facility. Once completed, improvements include new drive-through lanes with automated tellers, an overhead canopy, new building facade to modernize the architecture, and numerous other upgrades. Significant progress is being made on this construction project and completion is slated for early 2020.

Grading and ground preparation is finally underway at **Millers Landing**, a large-scale commercial development project located at the eastern base of Phillip S. Miller Park in Castle Rock. Miller's Landing is in the early planning stages for a 65-acre mixed-use development. The site includes potential land uses of hospitality, entertainment, retail and office. Current plans include removal of an existing municipal landfill, a connection to downtown Castle Rock by way of a regional trail along the Industrial Ditch corridor, and a pedestrian-oriented main street. Miller's Landing will offer 877,000 square feet of mixed-use space in a staged approach over four different build-out phases, culminating in 2023.

Phase one is slated to begin in the second quarter of 2019. Phase one has 1-4+ acre pad sites available, with sites up to 20+ acres in the later phases. The office, retail and hotel space will take up the vast majority of the square footage, followed by the entertainment and the food and beverage options. The space and

opportunities to buildout is currently being offered by NavPoint Real Estate Group. One of the more interesting proposed additions adjacent to the area is the SnowFlex project by SnowSports 365. The proposal is to have a hill area with artificial snow for those in the area who don't want to face the long commute and expense to the mountain resorts. The construction is set to begin in 2020.

A video showing what Miller's Landing will look like can be found at: <http://www.norris-design.com/work/millers-landing/http://www.norris-design.com/work/millers-landing/>

CDOT and the town of Castle Rock are partnering to add a second lane to the on-ramp, I-25 at Plum Creek. The additional lane should help alleviate wait times during peak rush hours as folks commute to the Denver-Metro areas. At present, there are times when there are lines of cars waiting to access the on-ramp from Plum Creek in the mornings, on weekends, and during special events in Castle Rock. CDOT is also adding metered lights on these ramps to better manage and control the flow of traffic.

New Proposal for Retail:

Bangu Brothers Ltd. has submitted a proposal to the Town of Castle Rock for approval to build a 10,000 square foot retail project in Heckendorf Ranch at the intersection of Plum Creek Boulevard and Crystal Valley Ranch Parkway. Once approval is finalized, the plan is to provide a small neighborhood commercial center and services to local residents living nearby. No exact date has been determined to start this project. However, folks who live in Crystal Valley will likely be enthused about having a convenience retail store nearby so that they don't have to travel into town.



The Personal Warehouse complex, located directly across from Compass Academy near Medved Autoplex, is a modern, mixed-use project comprising storage, warehousing, business, and retail options. Located in a new

industrial development a few minutes from downtown Castle Rock, it is just south of the Medved Autoplex. It's easily accessible and visible from I-25.

Last issue, I gave some detail as to who are the current tenants. According to their website, they are fully occupied and at maximum capacity. One of the businesses located there is the new **Honnibrook Craft Meadery**.

Honnibrook specializes in producing mead (or honey wine) using Colorado honey. They offer a light and refreshing version



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of mead they call “craft mead” that is comparable to beer in alcohol and carbonation, but in place of hops, they use fruit and spices. Additionally, they sell frozen mead slushes and hot mulled mead in their tasting room. Their meads are starting to gain recognition, and Honnibrook has received 12 awards and a “best of show” in both state and national competitions. The meadery can host special events/groups who schedule in advance. Honnibrook has 12 meads on tap with flavors rotating weekly, and they are open Thursday, Friday 5 - 9 pm, Saturday Noon - 9 pm, and Sunday Noon - 6 pm.

Plum Creek Church:



As you travel along the East Frontage Road parallel to I-25, you will see significant construction and earth moving at the Plum Creek Church. When

passing by the church on Sundays and times when they have other events and services, their parking appears to be at near capacity. As a result, they have current construction going on to expand their parking spaces and also enlarge their building. This area has considerable traffic during peak times when parents are dropping off or picking up children at the World Compass Academy there are lines of cars waiting to enter/exit the parking lots of both the Church and the Academy. Hopefully, the parking lot expansion project will help alleviate this problem. Just a little history, the current location of Plum Creek Church used to be Duke's Steak House before they moved to Castle Pines Parkway area.

CDOT GAP Project Update:

Frontage Roads:

Most of us who frequently travel the frontage roads have a keen interest in the status of this ongoing project since interruptions and closures can cause delays and inconvenience. The East and West Frontage Roads which parallel I-25 from Plum Creek to Tomah Road had scheduled road closures and interruptions which began in October 2019. CDOT informs me that some closures will run intermittently for a year to accommodate ongoing highway improvements. East and West Frontage Roads will NOT be closed at the same time. Residential and business access on the frontage roads will always be maintained.

The next closure is expected in early 2020 on the East Frontage Road. CDOT will make every effort to inform the public prior to these closures via social media and public announcements on their GAP Project website is <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i25-south-gap>.

There are 11 total drainage crossings on the west side and 23 on the east side – some pipes are as large as 48 inches and buried as deep at 16 feet. During each block closure, crews will replace

multiple drainage pipes to be as efficient as possible and reduce the number of full closures on the frontage roads.

Anyone who would like specific information about the frontage road construction schedule, please contact Dan Sailer at the Town of Castle Rock at 720-733-2470. CDOT informs me that there are no current plans to enhance or re-design the exit and entry ramps to Tomah Road during the GAP Improvement Project. This is the major exit and entry point for traffic headed to the new Jellystone Campground which is currently under construction.



Perry Park Resident Paul LaCrosse was inducted into the Horseshoe Hall of Fame Induction July 28, 2019.

His first horseshoe tournament was as a teen-ager in the 1958 Maine State Tournament and he has been competing ever since. In 1972, when

he moved to Colorado, he developed a Denver handicap league that still exists today. It was used as a model for leagues in the National Horseshoe Pitching Association. Paul won over 110 tournaments playing in the USA and Canada against the best skilled players in the game. Paul competed in 14 World Tournaments from 1981-2009. Paul won the Colorado State Tournament 23 times--a record. Beware if he offers a friendly game of horseshoes!

ROOFTOP SOLAR – FROM VISION TO REALITY (Part 1)

Terry Brownfield...

In November's *Sentinel*, I wrote that I've wanted solar energy powering my electric usage for years – a dream that began decades ago in high school science, continued during a college summer working in California, and has never gone away. I'm no expert, but I always knew solar was a great idea.



Thanks to our economical lifestyle, solid incomes and investments, improvements in technology, cost reductions, and the realization **this investment will both save us money and improve our home's value**, we are now “Going Solar” with our home!!

Should you “go solar”? I encourage you to read my short summary about financial considerations first. I wish we'd known “payback” and “financing” and understood the federal tax cred-

Continued on page 12

SOLAR Continued from page 11

its several years ago, as it seems **“doing nothing” is the most expensive choice.** Then consider a few facts on the improvements in solar technology, how to think about it for your own location, and a few tidbits and resources to maybe stir up a solar “dream come true” for yourself.

Financials

Except for some technology devices, which are expensive when they first come out and then cost less as manufacturing and science improves, the cost of everything, including utility bills, just goes up every year.

An average \$110/month electric bill for a Larkspur home can be expected to rise to nearly \$300/month in the coming three decades for a total cost for just electricity of well over \$50,000 over that time.

Below you'll see that an average home solar PV system can cost on the order of \$18,000 - \$20,000. That is a system that replaces the majority of a \$110/month electric bill. By arranging financing with a 15 or 20 year loan, monthly payments for an installed system can be on the order of \$90/month – very affordable – with nearly all of your electric bills going away immediately! The warranted life of our system is 25 years, and it may run much longer. Check your provider's warranty, though. Paying cash or a significant down payment can lessen the loan

costs, making the payback of the system happen much sooner. Making this financial picture clear for us was Andrew Ehrnstein (www.solar4planetA.com), an energy consultant with years of experience in solar systems.

Since 2006, federal tax credits for homeowners installing solar PV systems are 30 percent of the system cost. The credit steps down to 26 percent in 2020, to 22 percent in 2021 and then will be eliminated unless the Solar Investment Tax Credit (SITC) is extended by congress. The federal tax credit, which applies against owed taxes, can be significant – around \$5,200 in 2020 on an average \$20K solar installation. Colorado does not currently offer a state tax credit, and unlike Xcel Energy and other cooperative energy organizations in our state, IREA does not have any solar credits or incentives.

Between ever-increasing electric bills, the incentive of the federal tax credit, and the potential of still saving money over the lifetime of the system even when financing, it becomes clear that doing nothing to lower your electric bill really is the most expensive choice.

Efficiency First

First, make sure you've **improved the energy efficiency of your home;** this is often the most cost-effective initial strategy. Look at lighting, insulation, appliances, electronics, hot water,

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Home • Auto • Farm • Equine • Commercial • Workers Comp

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SOLAR Continued from page 12

heating, cooling, windows, doors, consumption patterns and assistance from timers. Lowering your usage will automatically lower your bill.

Second, there are numerous alternative energy possibilities – passive structure design, solar air/water heating, wind generation, fuel cells, and more. Here we're only addressing solar photovoltaics (PV), which are panels that convert solar energy into electricity.

PV technology has been around since the 1954 Bell Labs production of the first silicon PV cells, with contributions towards the technology dating to 1839. Albert Einstein's explanation of the photoelectric effect in 1905 was a milestone. If the techie in you wants all the details, see historical timelines on energy.gov and instituteeforenergyresearch.org websites. It's important to know that the technology improvements, cost reductions and tax incentives of the 1970's led to the industry seeing prices fall ~ 65 percent from 2008 – 2019; the cost of a solar PV system falling from ~\$50,000 to ~\$18,000 for an average home. Panel efficiencies and reliability are better than they've ever been.

Technology

Thankfully we live in an area well suited for solar PV use. Climate factors such as sunshine per day, snowfall, cloud cover, smog, air density (higher elevations are actually good), temperature (very hot locations can hinder PV output), rainfall, fog, and wind all impact energy production. Colorado and Larkspur in particular are considered good locations for climate factors.

As you consider solar, give careful attention to potential panel location and power usage. Consider: orientation of your roof (south facing or not), shading (by trees, other buildings, or landforms), age/health of your roof, snow accumulation patterns on your roof, and how your electric utility handles the power you generate but don't use. By CO law, utilities must compensate for excess power a solar system creates and feeds back into the grid (net metering). There is also a complicated Load Factor Adjustment (LFA) that IREA has implemented to account for homes with alternative power generation. A whole article could be written about how this billing is done; Andrew provided a worksheet, researched with IREA, that helps me forecast how Load Factor will affect my post-solar IREA bills. Perhaps some of you are already aware of how the LFA works and can fill me in on the details for your solar system.

We considered the orientation of our home when we built 23 years ago and have an ideal south facing roof. With the hail storms of this past summer, we needed a new roof and are replacing it soon so we won't have to incur costs in the near future to remove/reinstall our solar system due to roof replacement. Our roof does not have shading from trees which would impact PV efficiency.

There are three basic PV home systems – Grid tied (works with the existing utility system), standalone (requires ~ \$10,000 investment in a battery storage system), or hybrid (tied to the utility grid with some battery backup). Again, much could be written about all three of these systems – we focus on one.

Grid tied systems are considered the best choice for most homeowners with the best return on investment. Battery technology still lags in both efficiency and longevity and is quite costly, Solar 4 Planet A's Andrew Ehrnstein advised us. We really thought we wanted a battery – for the times when the electricity “goes off” and to just eliminate having an electric bill all together. Hopefully battery technology and costs will continue to improve; we can add it later if it does.

Mr. Ehrnstein, whom we chose to manage our solar system design and installation, is helping plan a system that will provide the majority of our electric use (we'll need a small amount of utility power when our PV system is not producing) while feeding any excess we produce during the day back into the utility grid. This is exciting – our electric meter essentially “runs backward” if we aren't using what we generate!

Besides the PV panels, the system requires a power inverter to convert the DC power of the PV panels to AC power for use in the home. The inverter is also needed for the safety of utility workers who might be working on power lines while the utility grid is down but our panels are still producing electricity. A final benefit of the inverter is that it includes monitoring of power production and consumption. We will be able to see “real time” how much energy is being generated and used.

The technical details and choices of a solar PV system are many and wide ranging. Besides panel roof (or ground) location and type of system, there are many choices for solar companies (engineering and installer), PV panel and inverter choices and manufacturers, warranty considerations, utility permissions/contracts, county permitting, and paying for it all. We chose Solar 4 Planet A and Andrew Ehrnstein over other solar choices, because he is working for us as a project manager – coordinating the entire design, component selection, engineering, permitting, installation, and activation of the system with IREA.

More Information

Coming to the decision to “go solar” for me started with a lot of research, considering various solar companies, doing some online calculations, and getting information from IREA. If you want to do your own research, consider:

Install Your Own Solar Panels – Designing and Installing a Photovoltaic System to Power Your Home, © 2017 by Joseph Burdick and Philip Schmidt

Solar Power Your Home for Dummies, © 2010 by Rik De-Gunther

pvwatts.nrel.gov (solar calculator)

If you have questions or you have an existing solar system, please email me (TerryB61@msn.com). At this writing (late November), our solar system is being designed. We hope to have design and permitting complete by mid-December with installation to follow that (after our roof replacement has been completed). I hope to write in the February Sentinel about how the entire process has gone for us using Solar 4 Planet A, and I hope to both answer your questions and include your experiences and installation stories then.

WILD TURKEYS TERRORIZING NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY

**Terror turkeys torment Jersey Shore
senior community**

**State to remove 'aggressive' turkeys
that ruffled feathers of NJ community**

No sooner did I unilaterally declare the turkey as the official bird of the Larkspur area (see the November *Sentinel*, Front Page) than another community simply declared war on the poor dumb birds—but claimed it was the other way around! They're pecking on the roof! They're pecking at the window! They attacked my dog! They attacked my car!



A turkey pecked for 15 minutes at its reflection in the bumper of a truck parked in a driveway in the Holiday City section of Toms River. Credit...Mark Makela for The New York Times

Have we had any super aggressive, scary turkeys here? Not in my yard—they just dither around in groups of 20-30 and look confused! Maybe Jersey birds are simply nastier than the laid-back western ones? The urban environment makes them mean? Well, it would probably make me mean, so... Maybe. On the other hand, you'd think those urban human east coasters would also be hardened enough to stand up to a bunch of turkeys. Apparently not.

I've had great fun with this story, but I think our old friend and neighbor here in Perry Park, Robin Malandrucolo Cecero, has had even more fun. A Jersey girl herself, she's abandoned our Colorado wilds for the Jersey shore about twenty minutes from Toms River. I told her to go over there and calm things down, but instead she's been posting pictures on her FB page of flocks of Jersey birds (few/small) and Larkspur flocks (many/large). So, there, you wimps! Come visit Colorado if you want to see real turkeys!

~KDale

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE Susan Peters...



*Where's Da Birds?...Get Ready for
the Howls...A Jackhammer...Holi-
day Gift Suggestions...Short Takes*

*Where Have All the Birds Gone...Hopefully, Not Long Time
Passing*

In mid-October we experienced a spell of a series of snow storms, one leaving eight or more inches on the ground accompanied by around zero and sub-zero temperatures. We did our best to provide an exorbitant birdie buffet during this period and lots of water. We had all the usual diners show up.

And then within, the following week, hundreds of birds disappeared. I counted all of nine individual birds for an entire week. Wow. An occasional jay, a few crows, a chickadee, and of course, the turkeys – they are not in the count.

Other than that, no juncos (really? They are snow birds!) Also missing is a large flock of nuthatches, particularly the pygmies. Gone. It took a couple of weeks before a few more birds started showing up. A few finches, flickers, and towhees.

Even the squirrels disappeared for a month with just a couple circulating through the bird feeders. I doubt that they are into big migrations.

So, I contacted the greater Denver chapter of the Audubon Society. I talked with the knowledgeable person on call that day and Suzy referred me to Master Birders, Hugh and Urling Kingery, who live in Franktown and have experienced the same disappearance of huge numbers of birds. And they said that the wildlife coordinator of Castlewood Canyon, who lives a mile east of Franktown, also has been puzzled by the same phenomena. Everyone is very concerned, particularly as 389 species of birds are on the brink of extinction, according to the latest Audubon study, *Survival by Degrees*.

Theories have been offered...that it was at the height of migration and many birds got caught in the storm before they could get away. Many young birds, who have a high mortality rate in their first year, may have been too weak to survive the storm. Suzy said that often year-around birds will leave the area temporarily for more hospitable climes. Urling emphasized how important it is to participate in the bird counts this year to be able to study this phenomenon in the Douglas County Christmas bird count which will be held Saturday, December 28, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

There are about 12 teams that go out and cover different areas of Douglas County. Birders of all abilities are encouraged to sign up for a team. Information is available through the Audubon CBC website. Walking distance and difficulty of the trails will vary with the count area, and the elevations will range from approximately 5,000 to 8,000 feet. Many areas involve mostly driving, with birding stops along the way. **Potluck:** There will

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NEWS FROM THE METRO DISTRICT BOARD

Sean King...

Notes from the November 21 meeting:



Gilloon Pond Reclamation Update

Douglas County has sent a request to the Army Corps of Engineers asking for clarification of jurisdiction over the waterways into Gilloon pond. The response from the Corps will dictate if removing the cattails will be part of the plan alongside removing silt and deepening the pond. The county is ready to submit a proposal as soon as the clarification is received.

Dark Sky Trial Proposed

Over the past few months, the board has been considering requests from residents to make Perry Park a “dark sky” community, which means removing all of the existing streetlights.

The IREA has agreed to shutting down the lights for a trial period so the district can “try out” the dark sky approach before committing to removing any streetlights. The board is still working out details for the duration, but would expect to start the trial early in 2020. At the conclusion of the trial, if the community decides to move forward, a plan will be drafted to permanently dismantle and remove the street lights.

The board has received 36 responses so far with feedback from residents. 35 of those were in favor of the dark sky trial, with one resident voicing opposition to this idea. Please reach out to info@perypark.org so we can continue to understand your opinions on this effort.

2020 Annual Budget

The board adopted a proposed budget for 2020. Here are some highlights from the proposed budget:

The total income projected for 2020 from the mill levy is \$188,000.

• Major Capital Expenditures planned for 2020 include:

- \$50,000 for the PPMD portion of the Gilloon Pond reclamation project.
- \$60,000 to remove the trees killed by the Tussock Moth invasion 3 years ago. This money is the PPMD portion of a matching grant from the State of Colorado for over \$120,000 of work.
- \$20,000 for potential Entryway improvements at the front of the park.

• Notable additions to the budget for 2020:

- \$10,000 for anticipated costs of an election of new board members.
- \$15,000 for updates and necessary maintenance of Wauconda park play equipment.

• Notable reductions for 2020:

- \$12,000 for defunding the fireworks in 2020. As expressed in previous communications, the board is looking for outside

fundraising and support to keep this Perry Park tradition alive.

- \$1,000 per year for moving from a rented storage facility in Larkspur to a new storage facility next to Gilloon pond.

The proposed budget will be voted on in the next board meeting. Please reach out to info@perypark.org or attend the next board meeting to ask questions or provide feedback.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 12th

The next Perry Park Metro District Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12th at the Perry Park Country Club. Topics will likely include:

- Annual budget approval
- Gilloon Pond Reclamation update
- Dark Sky Trial

A full agenda will be posted and announced a week before the meeting. The board would like to remind all Perry Park residents that they are invited to every board meeting and that the minutes from prior meeting are placed online at perypark.org once approved for full transparency.

The Board of Directors includes:

Randy Johnson – President (through May 2022)

Craig Van Doorn – Vice President (through May 2022)

Linda Black – Assistant Vice President (through May 2022)

Vanessa Dao – Treasurer (through May 2020)

Sean King – Secretary (through May 2020)

NEW BEAR ORDINANCE



The Larkspur town council passed an ordinance at its November 21 meeting that will require local businesses to use bear-proof dumpsters and other trash receptacles to discourage the bears who have frequently dropped into

the town to see what's for dinner. This ordinance is aimed at commercial enterprises in Larkspur, including but not limited to the eating establishments, the Renaissance Festival grounds, the campground and the dump. These establishments must have bear proof trash cans/dumpsters or reinforced sheds/enclosures or face increasingly hefty fines. First offense, \$100. Second offense, \$500. Third offense, \$1000. The final ordinance is posted on the town website, <http://townoflarkspur.org/business/>.

WILD SIDE Continued from page 14

be a compilation of Birds and a Chili potluck after the count. The chili potluck costs \$2.50 and birders are asked to bring a dish to share. The chili potluck will be held at the Roxborough Park Foundation Community Center at 6237 Roxborough Drive, Littleton, CO 80125.

Registration: If you would like to be placed on a team please email Nancy Crews at: NBCrews46@msn.com. Final deadline to register is Monday, December 23, 2019."

Also, the **Great Backyard Bird Count takes place February 14-17th**. The results will be sent to the Cornell University Bird Lab. See the Audubon website for more info:

<https://www.audubon.org> > [conservation](#) > [about-great-backyard-bird-count](#)

Howls All Over the Place

Say what? Petitions are under way to get enough signatures to put a proposal, Initiative 107, on next November's Colorado ballot allowing the state to reintroduce the grey wolf. The *Denver Post Hub* reported on this topic on Thursday, November 14.



Wolf expert Mike Philips gave a presentation at the University of Colorado, Denver, on October 23rd on "*The Wolf's Return to Colorado*." He addressed a number of concerns of various groups – hunters, ranchers, hunters, and fearful citizens. If the Initiative makes the ballot, we will be hearing more and reporting more on this topic.

Currently 70 percent of Coloradans approve the reintroduction with 65 percent of the western slope approving. It would improve the balance in nature, particularly with the elimination of too many coyotes which compete for much of the same prey. The wolf, being at the top on the food chain, would have coyotes as prey.

So, stay tuned folks....

The Jack Hammer Bird

I used to live in New England. Once, when camping, we were awoken by a jackhammer sound with the earth vibrating below our tent. A peek out the tent confirmed a Pileated Woodpecker pounding on a tree. They definitely make a statement with their adult height of 16-to-19 inches long, and having a wing span of 26 to 30. It is the second largest woodpecker behind the endangered Ivory Billed Woodpecker on this continent.



I was shocked to read recently an account that we can see them regularly when walking or hiking among the trees. I have never seen them once in all my many years of hiking and camping

in the Rockies. So, off to check my bird guides' range maps. These birds are mainly seen in deciduous woodlands in the east and do occur in several western states year-around. There is a note saying that they are expanding westward. Since my latest published bird guide is 10 years old, I will have to get a new one. Then I can check on the progress of the Northern Cardinal expanding westwards into Colorado. Or call the Audubon Society again.

Holiday Gift Suggestions

So, on that topic, I am asking Santa for *The Sibley Birds West: Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* by David Sibley, as seen on CBS Sunday Morning on November 17th. Sibley, an ornithologist, is considered to be the best illustrator since James Audubon and Roger Petersen. His books have a neat feature where the duller form of the bird is shown at the top of a page and progresses to the brightest form. This should really be helpful in identifying morphs.

Also, add a book on how to attract birds (and butterflies, bees, and bats) to your backyard, if you are buying for someone new to bird watching.

Another great book is *Our Wild Calling* by Richard Louv, featured in the *Denver Post* on Sunday, November 17th. What a wealth of info! Like, if an octopus has hold of you, look at it in the eyes, and it will let you go. Remember that.

Short Takes

After the two-week freak cold and snow, we mistakenly assumed that the bears would run to the cover of their winter dens. But no, two weeks later, fresh big paw prints appeared in the snow. They did not even touch the many pounds of bird food and suet we put out. And just as the signs of bears disappeared, the raccoons moved in to feast. Fortunately, our alert pooches have sent them scurrying.

Speaking of bears, have you seen the video of grizzly Tundra digging a den and backing into it at her new grizzly exhibit at the Denver Zoo? Check it out at:

<https://weather.com/news/trending/video/grizzly-bear-digs-cozy-den-for-hibernation-at-denver-zoo>

The zoo will have constant video cameras focused on the opening to the den to monitor her activity, or in this case for the winter, non-activity.

Once more, the turkeys disappeared two weeks before Thanksgiving. I just wanted a live one to use as a table centerpiece, complete with feathers and an attitude, if only I could get it to sit and stay for an hour.

A gentleman in Michigan reported seeing a deer on several occasions that had three antlers, one in the middle of his forehead!

That's all, folks, for this month. Gotta run – I just saw another species of bird returning. Have to track it down. ***Have a peaceful, loving holiday season with lots of wildlife to enjoy!***

How to Contact Me: Email is best at susan@larskpurconsulting.com. Alternatively, call my cell phone at 303-725-6868 or send a short write-up to 2255 Quartz Mountain Drive.

"I am a Larkspur resident and have been specializing in selling Larkspur real estate for the past 14 years. I am the managing broker and owner of Wolfe Realty Group, an independent residential real estate brokerage firm. By choosing to specialize in the Larkspur and Perry Park real estate market, I can provide you with the highest level of knowledge and insight when buying or selling your Larkspur or Perry Park home or land. If you have any questions about Colorado real estate, please contact Wolfe Realty Group Inc. at 303-681-3553 or go to www.DiscoverLarkspur.com"



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1835 Granger Circle
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1819 Quartz Street
The Meadows, Castle Rock
\$395,000

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



Ben is the ultimate professional. His expertise, demeanor, and communication skills are excellent in all aspects. My wife and I have moved several times and Ben is a far superior real estate agent than any we have had in the past. Someone who is caring, has integrity, morals and good character is who he is. I wouldn't use anyone else!" ~Dale & Kathy Bray



"Ben was excellent in all aspects. He knows the area very well and personally reviewed the MLS and picked homes to show us based on our taste and never tired in showing us over 60 homes until we finally found the perfect home. His honesty was beyond reproach. He negotiated price and inspection provisions always with our interest in mind. He set up the closing and helped review all documents pre-closing and during closing. We always knew Ben had our best interest at heart and would highly recommend Ben." ~Art & Beth Zabinski

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AFFORDABLE TREE CARE – Snow Removal, Beetle spray, mastication, fire mitigation, tree removal, noxious weed control 303-681-2092.

CLASSIFIED AD SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Email ads to pps Sentinel@comcast.net (you will receive an acceptance receipt.) Charges and submission instructions will be advised via email after typesetting.

Please include physical billing address. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any submitted advertising.

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE IS THE
20TH OF THE MONTH**

TEEN FOR HIRE

All Perry Park Area Residents under the age of 18 are welcome to advertise their services. Due to the recent feedback from residents that current teen advertisers not responding to their inquiries all ads have been removed for renewal. We welcome all serious submissions. Please email verbiage to pps Sentinel@comcast.net



I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

THE PERRY PARK SENTINEL

DEADLINES: All articles are due the 20th of each month.

Display Ads - the 15th of each month with art and payment due by the 20th.

Classified Ads - due the 20th of the month.

Editor: Karen Dale 303-681-2504
email - sentineleditor10@msn.com

Advertising/ Diane Jauch 303-663-1867

Business Mgr.: email - pps Sentinel@comcast.net

Proofreaders: Thanks to Terry Brownfied for carefully proofreading!

The Perry Park Sentinel staff reserves the right to refuse any article or advertising submission.

The *Sentinel* invites your letters, comments and ideas for columns. Deadline for advertising is the 15th of each month, and editorial copy is the 20th of each month. Letters should be limited to 300 words. Because of space limitation and legal ramifications, we reserve the right to edit any submitted material and cannot assure that submissions will be printed verbatim or unedited.

The *Sentinel* will correct all errors occurring in the paper. If you find a problem with a story - an error of fact, or a point requiring clarification, please call a member of the Editorial Staff. The opinions expressed in the *Sentinel* are not necessarily the opinions of the staff or its advertisers.

ADVERTISING RATES

PRICING IS FOR "CAMERA READY" ART

Classified *	\$ 5 / line (min \$10)
Business Card (scan only)	\$40.00
Quarter Page (3 1/2"x 5")	\$50.00
Half Page (7 1/2"x 5")	\$62.50
Full Page (7 1/2"x 10")	\$87.50

Typesetting is available for a nominal charge.

Ads sizes are Width x Height

Odd size ads are subject to a 20% charge

VISIT FOR THE LATEST PUBLICATION

www.perryparksentinel.com

DEADLINES

Display Ads - the 15th of each month with art and payment to be received no later than the 20th

Classified Ads - due the 20th of each month.

Email art to pps Sentinel@comcast.net

PerryPark Sentinel, c/o Diane Jauch
12637 Washington Lane #F2, Englewood, CO 80112

PAYMENT IS DUE AT TIME OF RESERVATION

Ad requests after the 20th are subject to a 10% charge