

# Larkspur Sentinel July 2023

Serving Perry Park, Larkspur, and the surrounding community

#### Summer is finally here!

. . .With all the rain it feels it's been a long time coming and it has certainly arrived in full bloom. Much as I'm enjoying the tall green grass, the flowers, and the sunshine, this seemingly late start will also make the season fly past. That makes each moment of THIS summer that much more precious.

Larkspur has many wonderful activities offered this summer - check out "What's Going On" on page 3 for dates and details. Also, look for the great resources available in our ads and classifieds section. To share more about our community, we've added a new "Small Business Feature" - a more in-depth look at a local small business.

When considering a new place to eat we have always enjoyed the article "Dining Tidbits." Mary Ann is stepping back after almost 3 years of writing for the Sentinel. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to her. If you are interested in writing an article or monthly column for the Sentinel, please email me.

Make sure to mark your calendar and note the change that this year the **4th of July parade and fireworks in Perry Park will be on Saturday July 1st.** The Sentinel is happy to be one of the sponsors of the refreshments at the 4th of July Parade.

In addition to all the wonderful available activities, remember to also take a moment to sit on a porch, deck, tree stump, hammock or camp chair and enjoy the beauty of this amazing area we live in. Please, be kind,

#### Margot Patterson

Editor

larkspursentinel@gmail.com

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Broker / Owner - RE/MAX Alliance - 7437 Village Square Drive, Suite 105, Castle Pines, CO 80108 720.988.4058 | eowens@remax.net | www.ElizabethOwens.net













ELIZABETH OWENS has a reputation centered on residential, high-end and acreage properties in Larkspur, Castle Rock and throughout Douglas County. For the past 19+ 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 is a Larkspur resident and is Broker/Owner at RE/MAX Alliance in Castle Pines. View the virtual tours for these homes and all Elizabeth's listings at ElizabethOwens.net.



SCAN HERE FOR AN AUTOMATED HOME VALUATION! CALL FOR A MORE IN-DEPTH VALUATION!

# What's Going On?

July 3 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park

July 5 - Larkspur Farmers Market - 3:00-7:00 pm, Community Park

July 10 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park

July 11 - Chamber of Commerce Monthly Mixer - check website for details

July 12 - Larkspur Farmers Market - 3:00-7:00 pm, Community Park

July 12 & July 26 - Larkspur Blanket Brigade 10 am - 3 pm - meets at Perry Park Country Club, 7047 Perry Park Blvd. For more information, or if you know of anyone in need of a little extra comfort, contact Cindy Hotaling at <a href="mailto:cjaspsjr@yahoo.com">cjaspsjr@yahoo.com</a>. Come join us!

**July 13 - 6 pm - Perry Park Metro District**Board Meeting at Perry Park Country Club and via Zoom.



**July 13 - 6 pm - Larkspur Fire District** Board of Directors meeting at Larkspur Fire Station 161.

**July 14 – 6 pm - Music in the Park** - Rascal Martinez, Larkspur Community Park

July 15 - 9 am - 12 noon - Preventing Ember Ignitions for \$500 or less - Class Outside in street near 6867 Pike Place, Perry Park

July 17 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park

July 19 - Larkspur Farmers Market - 3:00-7:00 pm, Community Park

July 24 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park

July 26 - Larkspur Farmers Market - 3:00-7:00 pm, Community Park

**July 28 – 6 pm - Music in the Park** - Cari Dell, Larkspur Community Park

July 31 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park



Larkspur is a town bursting with summertime activities. Between Music in the Park on the second and fourth Fridays, food trucks every Monday, and The Larkspur Farmers Market every Wednesday, we hope you are enjoying all that Larkspur has to offer. Stay tuned for some more fun - recreational sports activities in the park! Hope you have a happy and safe Fourth of July!

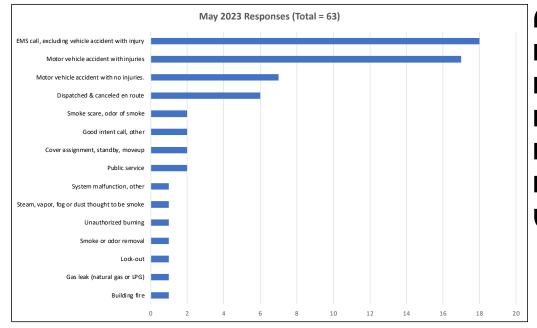
Looking forward to seeing you around town!

#### Mayor Sherilyn West



#### FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

by Wayne Moore, Member-Board of Directors



Larkspur Fire
Protection District
Board Meeting
Thursday, July 13th
6:00 pm at Station 161
Public is welcome to attend.
Please check the website for details.

larkspurfire.org

#### Larkspur Firefighters Train on Mobile Live Fire Training Unit

During two weeks in June, our Larkspur firefighters had the opportunity to train in live fire scenarios. The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control's 53-foot Mobile Live Fire Trailer simulates a variety of live fire situations. To stay proficient and also maintain certifications, firefighters must train in various types of controlled environments. These training sessions with the Live Fire Trailer included firefighters from Castle Rock, Monument, and Palmer Lake, and will facilitate these teams working effectively on mutual-aid fires with these agencies.

The trailer's unique design allows for working in real-life conditions, attacking fires on the ground floor, upstairs, or in a basement. The interior of the trailer has movable walls, which adds to the realism of not knowing the design of the building firefighters are entering. The trailer fires are propane fueled which makes it easier to control the size of the fire and immediately stop the fire if necessary. Also the trailer is configured for access to its various levels via exterior ladders.

Being a Larkspur firefighter requires a broad set of skills. We are fortunate that we rarely have major structure fires in our district. This type of training allows our Firefighters to maintain their competence and physical stamina to expertly fight these fires.

#### NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT

#### by Brian Arthurs

"Everybody in this country eats Colorado River water—and it is because of farmers in Yuma, Arizona and farmers in the Imperial Valley who are producing the vast majority of the winter vegetables that you eat. So, everyone in the United States of America should be concerned about what's happening right now."

— Rhett Larson



Water is the lifeblood of the Western Slope, as it powers our agriculture, tourism and recreation industries and sustains the health and well-being of our communities. Yet, even with the great moisture we have had this year, the Colorado River and our water sources still face sustained drought and overuse.

We are home to the headwaters of the seven-state Colorado River system and the vast majority of the drought-ridden region's water supplies originate here.

Thanks to heavy winter snows and a rainy spring, Colorado's system of water reservoirs hit 100% of normal this month, the fullest they have been in three years, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

And all that water has largely pulled Colorado out of drought, with just a few small areas of the state, including parts of Summit County, as well as northeastern and southeastern Colorado, registering as abnormally dry, the least intense level of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The Rio Grande Basin, which has struggled with below-average mountain snows and dwindling storage for years, has seen its reservoirs surge back to life this year, with stored supplies measuring 124% of normal. Last year its reservoirs stood at just 83% of normal. In fact, in 2022 all the reservoirs across the state's major basins were low, with the South Platte River Basin coming closest to health, registering 98% of normal.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest snow survey data showed snowpack in the upper Colorado River Basin at 129% of the 1991-2020 norm. Federal hydrologists have estimated 14.7 million acre-feet of water this summer will flow from Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah into Lake Powell. This key Colorado River reservoir is rising more than a foot a day — on track to deepen by some

70 feet in the coming months. Spring flows into the lake are among the highest observed in its history.

As part of the Colorado River Compact, completed in 1922, surveyors took the average water flow of the Colorado River, then divvied water rights between Upper Basin states—Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico—and Lower Basin states: Nevada, California, and Arizona. The terms of the compact, however, were largely the product of development aspirations and political deal making, and two exceptionally wet years were used to estimate the amount of water the river could supply each state. Since then, a potent combination of drought and rising temperatures have led to dwindling Colorado River water flows. Those problems have been compounded by exponential population growth.

In 2007, during the worst eight-year drought in more than a century, Interim Guidelines were issued encouraging voluntary water conservation measures but did not attempt to reallocate water deliveries to compact states. These guidelines are set to expire in 2026.

The Colorado River's future will be determined by the willingness of the states to reduce consumptive use to match declining inflow. If they cannot reach an agreement, the federal government may impose draconian measures until things stabilize. When politics are involved, stability can be elusive.

The District (PPWSD) held its regular board meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

Agenda items included a review of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements, odor from the sewage treatment facilities, disbursements of \$315,158.34, Bannock Subdistrict consideration, media coverage, property tax issues, and other miscellaneous items. Further information is available on the district website, <a href="https://www.ppwsd.org">www.ppwsd.org</a>.



# Perry Park Metropolitan District

The Special District For Perry Park Ranch

#### by Steve Ostrowski, Secretary, PPMD Board of Directors

Summer is finally here, and we encourage you to take advantage of the wonderful natural area in which we live. From our undeveloped roads to trails within our neighborhood, we have multiple ways to walk, bike, and hike right here in Perry Park. Wauconda Park has playground equipment, a gazebo, an open field, and a small stream. If you have any ideas for improvements or notice any issues, please contact us. We have a Parks and Open Space Committee as well, for anyone wanting to help improve these areas.

Please note that our 4th of July Independence Day fireworks celebration and parade will be held on Saturday, July 1st, instead of the 4th of July holiday date. On Saturday, July 1st, the parade starts at Red Rock Circle at 11:00am (around the Big D, off Red Rock Drive). Immediately following the parade, there will be free food, music, awarding of trophies, and games at Worley's Grove. Arrive early to get a good seat! Fireworks start about 9:30 pm over Lake Wauconda. For more information, visit our website and social media to see the event flyer and registration information for those that want to participate.

The Craig Van Doorn memorial bench is completed and will be placed near Gateway Pond once the site is prepared. Thank you to everyone that contributed!

Other current topics on the board include:

- Cellular Towers / Coverage we are reviewing information on adding cellular towers which would improve communications for residents and also help in emergencies. Wildfire postmortems have shown that good communications are a key factor for effective operations.
- Gateway Pond water rights there is a pending water court case where we are

- seeking approval of a plan to maintain water rights to current levels on the pond.
- Gilloon Pond improvements Douglas
   County has indicated that they may be able
   to match funds for improvements to this
   area. Confirmation is needed on whether this
   constitutes federal waterways to determine
   how much we can improve.
- Committees we always need volunteers to improve our community. There is an Independence Day Planning Committee, a Firewise Committee, an Entry Design Committee, and a Parks and Open Space Committee that can always use help. There are many great ideas for improving our community and to implement more of them, we need you! To get involved, reach out to us at info@perrypark.org and we>II get you connected.

Our July board meeting is scheduled for Thursday – July 13, at 6:00 pm at the Perry Park Country Club and on Zoom. You can see the meeting schedule and documents, as well as other neighborhood information and contact forms, at <a href="https://www.perrypark.org">https://www.perrypark.org</a> - Zoom and in-person attendance are options, making it convenient for you to participate. We hope to have you there.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors,

Follow us on: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/perry-parkmetro">https://www.facebook.com/perry-parkmetro</a> & <a href="https://nextdoor.com/g/6vaja7i6t/">https://nextdoor.com/g/6vaja7i6t/</a>

#### PPMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Warren - President Darren Hill - Vice President Jill Arthurs - Treasurer Steve Ostrowski - Secretary Joe Brickweg - Asst. Secretary



#### In Memoríam...

#### Sandy Davis

#### August 22, 1960 - June 19, 2023 CHECK the DATE

Sandra Joan Davis, 62, of Larkspur, Colorado passed away peacefully with her family lovingly by her side. Her long and courageous battle with cancer ended with the close support of family and dear friends, her husband Blake, son Tyler, and daughter Jordan.

Born August 22, 1960, in Eldora, Iowa to Cecil and Jean Tesdahl, Sandy spent her childhood in a loving home located on an Iowa farm with her three sisters Carol, Ann, and Beth, many aunts and uncles,

and 13 cousins. Her large and loving family helped to shape who she would become as a woman and mother. Sandy grew up in a home that embraced music and a love for riding and showing horses. At an early age, she learned to play guitar and sing both inside and outside of the home.

Sandy carried her love of music throughout adulthood and played in several bands and acoustical groups. She had a voice like an angel and, in the last few years, enjoyed singing many songs with her daughter Jordan.

Sandy received her MBA from the University of Colorado and worked for several companies including Honeywell, Logistics, and 20 years with the University of Michigan. Sandy retired last year from her position as a business analyst at the University of Michigan Medical School. She loved golf and traveling with her husband Blake, who she

married in 1989. Together, they moved 14 times throughout the United States, made many lifelong friends, and enjoyed their winter home in Puerto Penasco, Mexico.

Above all, Sandy was a devoted mother and wife. She is survived by her husband Blake, her son Tyler of Westminster, daughter Jordan Hout of Larkspur, and four (soon to be five) grandchildren, Charlie, Ava, Davis and Olivia. Services were held on June 27th.





## Judy H. Boyle

Licensed Massage Therapist 303-529-7516

judy@restorative-wellness.com

8720 Spruce Mountain Road Larkspur, CO 80118

CABIN #4



Directly South of Town Hall restorative-wellness.com

#### **Fire Mitigation Update**

by Keith Worley, Forester and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist photos courtesy of Gary Sonke

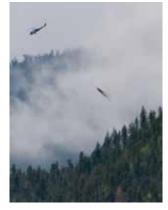
# **Upper Cheyenne Project Nearing Completion**

From PPMD, CSFS, LFPD and Douglas Cty

Phase 3 of the Greater Larkspur Fuel Treatment Project, as of June 21, is nearing completion. There will be an estimated 30-day break from operations due to mechanical problems. Access may be permitted during this lull. However, stay tuned to email alerts from PPMD for access to the Upper Cheyenne area. Do not enter the area when warning signs are in

place.

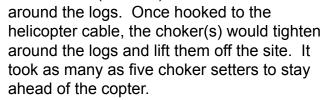
Many of you have enjoyed the aerial show from your homes. There were two phases. First was removal of the dead trees from Starr Mountain. Second was a chainsaw crew felling ladder fuels in Bear Creek Canyon. Here are a few facts about the helicopter operation:



- Where do the logs go? All air lifted materials were hauled to Haystack Ranch where these were ground up into mulch sized materials.
- What were they spreading on the mountainside? What you saw was the ground up material being recycled back onto the site. At times, this may have looked pinkish-like fire retardant.
- 3. Why so early in the morning? Static electricity! By early afternoon, the cable suspended from the helicopter would become dangerously charged with static electricity as storm fronts move into the area. The ground workers that had to



- grab the cable could get seriously zapped.
- 4. How were the logs hooked up to the helicopter? A crew of "choker setters" had to clamber all over the mountain side hooking steel cables (chokers)



5. Were they able to recover any usable wood? Unfortunately, the biomass was too rotten for even firewood or commercial mulch.

Perry Park residents should sign up for email alerts from PPMD at <a href="https://www.perryparkmd.colorado.gov">www.perryparkmd.colorado.gov</a>.

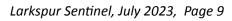
Thank you for respecting pilot safety by heeding the No Drones request. You should also be aware the same restrictions will apply during any wildfire in the area. We've already had one wildfire operation, west of Woodmoor Mountain, shut down by homeowner drone operation.

# **Douglas County Wildfire Mitigation Grants Available**

Douglas County has set aside \$1,000,000 for grants for homeowners to implement wildfire mitigation measures on their properties. Go to <a href="https://www.douglas.co.us">www.douglas.co.us</a> for additional information.

Be aware, if you apply for this grant, you will be required to meet current wildfire mitigation standards established by Colorado State Forest Service. Links to these standards are available

continued on next page



**Fire Mitigation** continued from previous page on the DC website. Initial inspection, submittal of a bid/proposal for the work and follow up inspection are required.

# Perry Park Slash Pickup Completed in June - Next Pickup will be October

Thank you for doing a great job of slash pile building! Most of you followed the rules and helped save the Metro District thousands of dollars. Many of you are already anticipating the October pick up. So, it is worth repeating the rules again. These are also available at <a href="https://www.perryparkmd.colorado.gov">www.perryparkmd.colorado.gov</a> if you accidentally threw away your mailer. The following is a checklist of reminders:

#### Perry Park Slash Pile Checklist

- Slash 6 feet from road edge.
- Maximum lengths 12 feet.
- Diameters less than 10 inches.
- Piles away from overhead power lines, utility meters and mailboxes.
- Consolidated slash piles stacked high.
- Pile size greater than 2 cubic yds. (3' X 3' X 6')
- No rocks, metal, trash, stumps, lumber or construction materials.
- No pine needles other than attached to branches.

NOTE: Violations were tagged with blaze orange flagging and a Ziploc baggy attached to the pile containing the violation notice.

Please limit your slash pile to one tall, large pile. Do not create long skinny piles that will cost the Metro District more contractor time. The highest number of violations were for piles that were too small. Most would have fit in a garbage bin or could have been put on a neighbor's pile.

We strongly encourage you to coordinate with your neighbors to set up shared slash piles from multiple residences. It is one more way to help protect the program and save our tax dollars.

# Extreme Gardening- Taming the Scrub Oak Monster a big hit!

Twenty-five residents attended the session and

learned a few factoids about Gambel oak:

- An oak clump often contains a whole plant community with chokecherry, currant, snowberry, wild geraniums and other plants.
- One of these "other" plants can be poison ivy! It thrives in the cool, moist, shady cover of oak clumps. Learn what it looks like so you can avoid it.
- Our larger oak clumps are getting old.
   And along with this, the trunks are getting weaker from decay. It is like osteoporosis in humans.
   The oak is getting "brittle bones." So, when we get heavy wet snows, it will be more prone to breakage.
- Well-managed Gambel oak can be retained in our defensible (D) spaces if ladder fuels are removed, and clumps are separated from each other. Be sure to consult a wildfire specialist about safe locations in your D-space.
- Attendees learned about the 4 D's of Pruning: Remove dead, dying, diseased and deranged limbs and stems.

We had fun with prize drawings throughout the class and grand prize of a "Tree Whispering" consultation by Keith Worley.

# Preventing Ember Ignitions for \$500 or less

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Location: 6867 Pike Place.

Embers are the number one cause of home loss from wildfires. Learn how embers ignite structures and simple ways to prevent them from burning down your home. You will learn how to assess your ember exposures and come up with often simple ways to keep them out. Class size will be limited to 20 attendees, and priority given to Perry Park residents. A special thanks to Kirk Mulbach for offering the outside of his residence as our classroom.

Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and hydration. Also watch for reminders from PPMD.

Sign up for July 15 class by emailing Keith at <a href="mailto:firewiseguy@outlook.com">firewiseguy@outlook.com</a>. Use "Firewise" in the subject line. Please include your contact information in case the class fills up and we decide to conduct a second session.



# **DAVE GARDNER'S**

# Results Team







#### 6517 Perry Park Blvd. - Perry Park

Fully Custom 2-Story lives like a Ranch Style home w/Main Floor Master & Main Floor Laundry. Fully finished Walkout Basement w/ Media Room. Wonderful quality both inside and out! 5 Bdrms, 4 Baths, spacious 1,077 Sq. Ft. Garage.



#### 6045 S Pike Dr. - Perry Park

Gorgeous 2-Story Home with Finished Walkout Basement, is ON THE GOLF COURSE with Fantastic Views of the course and red rock formations. Main Floor Master - Huge Garage.



#### 6301 Perry Park Blvd. #4 - Echo Hills

Fully Custom 3-Bdrm, 4-Bath Townhouse. Huge Master Suite and a spacious Office/Study, Views of Lake Wauconda AND Soaring Red Rock Monoliths including the famous "Sentinel Rock". Received multiple offers!



#### 6682 Wauconda Dr. - Perry Park

Custom RANCH-STYLE Home with Main-Floor Master & Finished Walkout Basement on 1-Acre. Incredible Panoramic Mountain Views, right across the street from "Sentinel Rock" and the Perry Park Golf Course. Backs to Open-Space!



#### 8078 La Veta Rd. - Perry Park East

This Home sits on a 5-Acre LOT with Finished Walkout Basement, Main Floor Master, and 3-car garage plus a 384 Sq. Foot "She Shed". This house has been LOVED!



#### 6334 Thunderbird Rd. Perry Park

1-Acre LOT in the popular "Spring Canyon" area of Perry Park. Enjoy Red Rock Formations ON-SITE! Rare FLAT topography, Peaceful location. Investment Grade Lot - NO Building allowed at this time.



In 2022 Dave Sold MORE Larkspur Area Properties than any other Agent! Call us to find out why more people are choosing the Results Team!

303-681-1000 www.HomesInLarkspurCO.com



# Gardening in 80118: Too Much Water? by Marla Leggette



If your plants have been slow to grow, and are on the yellowish side and wilting, they have probably been overwatered from too much rain. Although we needed the moisture, it's not always the best for our garden plants,



especially the drought-tolerant ones. Along with water, plants also need warmth and sun. With the rain mostly gone now, adding some compost and mulch will help the vegetables and flowers absorb the water. You only need to water when the top 1-2" of soil is dry.

It would also be good to check for any roots that may be exposed and cover them with compost. This goes for any plants in containers as well. Root rot, is possible when the roots have gotten mushy or may smell rotten. Most plants will need to be removed and replaced with another plant. It's a good idea to replace the soil.



#### Good gardening practices after the rain:

- 1. Weeding is so much easier with the added ability to pull out the whole root.
- 2. Deadheading and cutting back some perennials and annuals that may have been damaged from the heavy rain will help them grow and bloom.
- 3. Planting and re-planting is easy in the damp soil.
- 4. Empty any standing water where bugs like mosquitos breed.

I just planted my tomatoes on June 14th and put my cages in right away in case I have to cover them

from weather. I hope to have tomatoes in about a month to 6 weeks. Planting any seeds now will bring a late summer or fall harvest. Staking tall plants is a good idea for July.

We certainly can't control the weather and we have to learn to garden around it. It's not as expected or planned and with our short growing season, it can be a little frustrating. . .OK, very frustrating. I hope the coming months bring much improvement and growth to your garden!

The Douglas County Garden Club will host their annual Herb Luncheon on July 18th at the Parker Public Library, from 1:00- 3:00pm. Bring an herb, get an herb! And enjoy a potluck lunch with herb flavored dishes. Guests are always welcome.



#### CODE RED- Perry Park at 75% signed up!

Be sure you will be contacted in the event of a wildfire or other emergencies by signing up for Code Red notifications at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office website. According to Mike Alexander, DCSO-Emergency Management, only 30% of Douglas County residents have signed up for Code Red reverse notifications. Perry Park has reached the 75% mark with a goal of 100%. You can list cell phones and other forms of notification. If you have switched your landline to an internet provider, like Comcast, you need to include it at Code Red. Go to <a href="https://www.dcsherriff.net">www.dcsherriff.net</a> to sign up.

# AGING Aging Resources to the Rescue RESOURCES by Amy Pfister of Douglas County



Summer is finally here! Summer is, without a doubt a favorite season for many. Temperatures are just-right, gardens are in full bloom, and farmers' markets are bursting with fresh foods, it's pretty much the perfect time of year.

Summer also comes with its challenges. It should come as no surprise that for many older adults, one of the biggest difficulties every summer is yard work. From raking pine needles to clearing gutters, seniors often struggle with various seasonal tasks — particularly those with strength and mobility issues. Tasks that may seem relatively easy to you and me, like mowing the lawn, can be incredibly overwhelming to a senior.



Aging Resources of Douglas County to the rescue! Aging Resources has developed a way to help bridge the gap between older adults who need some yardwork assistance and volunteers looking to give back to their community. Through the "Service Saturday" volunteer program individuals, groups, families, teams, or co-workers are paired with a local senior who needs some yard help. Tasks can range from raking, weeding, and hedge trimming and oftentimes include a sweet side of

conversation and lemonade. A few hours of volunteering can make an incredible difference in the life of an older adult in your community. Aging Resources has a growing list of local seniors (several in Larkspur) who could use a helping hand in the yard this summer.

Getting involved is as easy as grabbing your group members and signing up on the Aging Resources website via the link below. If a Saturday doesn't work, Aging Resources can work with your group to find a day and time that does. Don't wait...sign up to make a difference today!

Sign up here: <u>www.agingresourcesdougco.org/service-saturdays.html</u> or call Aging Resources at 303-814-4300!





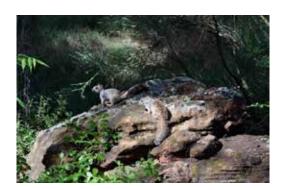
#### **Neighborhood Posers** Photos by Mike Riebau











## THE EVOLUTION OF LARKSPUR

August 26, 2023

9:30 AM
A two-hour educational walk that travels back in time to Larkspur's founding in Colorado's territorial days to what the Town has become This walk starts at Larkspur Historical Society's Information today.



Cabin located south of Larkspur's Town Hall and moves from today, back in time, to 1869. This walk is moderate. Water and snacks are provided. No dogs allowed on walking tour. For more information or RSVP, call Nancy Page-Cooper, 720.849.0718.



# **Larkspur Historical Society**

...the voice of history of southern Douglas County and Divide Country

# What is the Future of Douglas Land Conservancy?

by Richard Bangs, DLC Board Member

Founded in 1987 by a group of local people interested in preserving open space in Douglas County, DLC has grown into a thriving non-profit land trust which holds 80 easements protecting nearly 27,000 acres in Douglas, Elbert and Jefferson counties. Previously we've



talked about the history of DLC and its growth. Now it's time to pull out the crystal ball and take a peek into the future.

A big part of DLC's future will be the protection of those 27,000 acres forever, a requirement of the easements the organization holds. But what about growth in easements, financial security, building an appropriate staff and crafting a plan to reach those milestones?



To help answer these questions, we turn to three people well qualified to comment on such matters:

Jane Boand is a board member on DLC's Board of Directors and was a founding member of DLC. She's been here since the beginning.

Alan Clarke is the current President of the Board of Directors. He has been on the board for many years and lives in the Perry Park/Larkspur area.

Laura Sanford is the Executive Director of DLC. She has many years of experience with land trusts and will be responsible for guiding DLC into the future.

For Boand, DLC's success in the past, and in the future, can be tied to its focus on the mission of the land trust.

"Since DLC's inception, we have focused on growing a sustainable, committed and resilient land trust to support the mission of preserving open space in perpetuity," said Boand. "In my mind, that behooves us to continue engaging the entire community in learning, sharing and contributing to the betterment of our natural world.

"We must also continue to strive for organizational and professional excellence and to treat our staff, board, volunteers, partners and supporters with respect and inclusivity.

Only by working together will we continue to protect and conserve wildlife habitat, key viewsheds, historic places, agriculture, and outdoor recreation and education opportunities for all. I'm very optimistic that we will continue to achieve all of these objectives, thanks to the collaboration and support from our partners and supporters!"

Clarke sees long-term success based on the foundation already built and the planning that will take DLC into the future.

"It's a wonderful accomplishment, building an organization from scratch that over 35 years has acquired conservation easements protecting nearly 27,000 acres of beautiful Colorado land," said Clarke.

"We look forward to not only the next 35 years, but the next 350 years,



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#### DLC continued from previous page

and beyond. We have high expectations for where DLC is heading. As we develop our new strategic plan, we are laying the essential groundwork to carry our work far into the future. This includes protecting additional tens of thousands of acres, enhancing our staff to ensure we continue to effectively monitor and defend the conservation values of a growing portfolio of conservation easement properties. It also means solving unknown challenges that may lie ahead and building a robust financial base to forever secure the financial strength of DLC. And one more thing: The great success of DLC's first 35 years was built by



dedicated people—landowners, community leaders, donors, volunteers, staff, boards of directors, and other conservation partners. We will continue to foster such relationships. This is critical to our success. Together we will ensure our next 35 years is even better."

Sanford also ties success to effective planning and implementation of those plans.

"I am so excited about the future of DLC," said Sanford. "We are ramping up our conservation efforts and looking at how we can assist our landowners with meaningful stewardship of their land. DLC is finishing our strategic plan for the next five years and there is a strong emphasis on conservation collaboration, organizational soundness, and outdoor education. Please keep an eye out in January 2024 for the finished product!"

For more information about DLC, go to www.douglaslandconservancy.org



Affordable Pricing
Fire Mitigation
Remodel and Construction Debris Demolition
Ranch Land Cleanup

Chris Miller 303-919-1996 mrhauling19@gmail.com "I am a Larkspur resident and have been specializing in selling Larkspur real estate for the past 17 years, I am the managing broker and owner of Wolfe Realty Group, an independent residential real estate brokerage firm. By choosing to specialize in thereal 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"



Ben Wolfe Managing Broker & Owner Larkspur Resident & Larkspur Real Estate Expert

#### **Just Listed!**

1449 Gore Drive Sage Port, Larkspur \$1,195,000

1 Wooded Acre
Corner Lot
4 Bedroom/4 Bathrooms



Gorgeous 4,360 finished sq ft walkout ranch on 1 wooded acre in Sage Port featuring 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. The bright and airy great room includes 13 foot vaulted ceilings, 2 story picture windows, wood floors and a floor to ceiling stacked stone gas fireplace. The chef's gourmet kitchen showcases slab granite counter tops, industrial quality cook top, stainless steel appliances and wood floors. The finished walkout lower level showcases a spacious family room, game or exercise room, study & plenty of natural light. Enjoy a night out under the stars with your family and friends on the beautiful Timbertech deck.



#### **Just Listed!**

Ben Wolfe exceeded our

expectations! We knew he was

6811 Woodhall Court Bear Dance, Larkspur \$650,000

To Outstanding
Counter Survices



#### **Just Listed!**

596 Independence Drive, Larkspur ~ \$1,671,000

Multi-generational living at its finest. This stunning mountain contemporary ranch style home commands attention with its 5,197 sq ft main house along with a 1,625 sq ft completely self-sufficient 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom guest house which makes this property ideal for caring for your aging parents or your adult children. This stunning 6 bedroom, 6 bathroom 6,225 finished square foot estate has every imaginable upgrade and stunning attention to detail.

"When we decided to sell our home in Larkspur, the only realtor we considered using was Ben Wolfe. He is results oriented and absolutely fantastic to work with!

going to represent the sale of our home extremely well and we could not have been happier or more impressed with his success! We highly recommend Ben Wolfe to anyone planning to buy or sell their home. He is incredibly knowledgeable and he made sure our experience was

flawless from beginning to end "Feedback from John and Cathy Sweeney regarding the sale of 570 Independence Drive, Larkspur

Wolfe Realty Group, Inc. Office 303-681-3553 Cell 303-667-7995 Ben@DiscoverLarkspur.com www.DiscoverLarkspur.com

#### **Community Garage Sale a Big Success!**

#### by Stephanie Dieninger

Our aim for the community sale is to attract a wide audience and encourage them to visit our sales event. Typically, our location may be a bit far for some individuals.. However, many buyers turn it into a weekend outing and take advantage of fantastic deals on preloved items.

Participants on Friday & Saturday: 35 Participants on Sunday: 15 Attendees/Buyers: we have reports of buyers driving up from Texas, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona and throughout Colorado, specifically for our sales. We don't have a formal way of capturing this information, but we know this is a weekend event for many of our surrounding states.

Participant raffle winners of \$25 cash each! Angie V., Linda B., Cindy M., Audra R.

This year, we decided to try something new by introducing a flea market alongside the individual driveway garage sales. The turnout was great and based on the response, we have decided to make it a recurring feature in the coming years.

Attendees expressed their appreciation for having the option to participate in driveway sales or explore the vibrant atmosphere of a flea market. Neighbors enjoyed the opportunity to meet and visit their neighbors. We listened to your feedback and are excited to offer both options again next year.

We have identified two key takeaways. First, while our digital ads and marketing efforts were successful, we recognize the importance of enhancing street signage for the weekend. Clear and prominent signs will ensure that potential shoppers do not miss out on the exciting sales. Second, we will schedule the garage sale weekend the weekend before Renaissance Festival begins every year. We found that this is a happy medium between dealing with the Festival traffic and not having to be too late in the summer getting close to when school starts.

Lastly, we want to thank our sponsors who helped us spread the word and help keep the participant cost down. We truly appreciate businesses like these that help our local community thrive.

- Elizabeth Owens real estate services
- Town of Larkspur
- Dave Gardner real estate services
- Schur Success Group auction, appraisal, real estate, estate sale services
- Bonnie Sells Colorado real estate services
- Melony Youtsey w/Native Hawk Services personalized home & decorative services
- MR Hauling junk/trash/clean up/haul away services
- Larkspur Sentinel Larkspur's monthly newsletter
- The Organized Flamingo professional organizing & decluttering services

If you have any suggestions, would like to be a sponsor, would like to volunteer, or are interested in participating in next year's community garage sale, please reach out to us at theorganizedflamingo@gmail.com. We value your input, and we encourage you to share your feedback with us.



5761 N. Peterson Road, Sedalia 303-720-3129

Monday, Thursday, Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

We have increased our service days to include Thursdays <u>- request</u> from many customers and

Service requests from many calls during the week.

Serving the community since 1999.

Bring this ad on a Thursday and receive a 10% discount on your load

Thank you for your new and past patronage.



# Small Business Feature 80118 Greenland Flower Farm by Amber Miller Pate

Everyone loves flowers, don't they? With their beauty, fragrance, and charm, it's hard to find a reason not to love them. Cut flowers are no exception. From weddings, to birthdays, funerals, and everything in between, cut flowers are a part of our lives, bringing so many fond memories to people all over the globe. That is why I started my very own cut flower farm. Greenland Flower Fields, right



here in Larkspur. Bringing joy to people through flowers is something special, and near and dear to my heart.

What is so special about a local cut flower farm you ask? With more than 80% of the cut flowers sold in the US being imported from other countries, there are many reasons why local blooms are important. Without going too deep into that rabbit hole, my favorite reasons are knowing where your flowers come from, and the large variety of flowers that are available which cannot be shipped. The types not available in supermarkets or florist shops. Certain flowers just do not hold up well being flown halfway across the world. My favorite flowers that I grow and are hard to find imported, are dahlias, zinnia, cosmos, forget me nots, and many perennials. Think of all of the beautiful garden flowers you see in magazines, those are what you can find locally, and they are so much more special!

I've been growing flowers as long as I can remember. I come from a long line of gardeners, so you could



say it's in my blood. There is just something that happens when I get my hands in the dirt, grow plants from seed, and nurture beauty that is hard to find elsewhere in our busy lives. Growing flowers has always been a part of my life. It started when I was about 12, and I found some old seed packets in a trunk in our hot garage. I dug up a spot in our yard, and planted those seeds. Seeds that should never have grown, but they did, and I was hooked! Over the years my jobs have always revolved around the plant and floral industry. My first job was at a florist shop, learning the ins and outs of the business and floral design. I moved on to working at a large home improvement store for many years, in the garden section. I learned a LOT there! After starting a family and being a stay-at-home mom for years, the idea of growing and selling cut flowers came to fruition in 2017. I decided this was something I had to do, and I have never looked back. Ours is a seasonal farm, which means we do not grow year-

round. As of now, the farm is completely field grown (no growing structures), which has its challenges at 7200' in elevation. Local gardeners know what I'm talking about!

At our elevation in Colorado, and our usually cooler summers, we can produce some great flowers. Many

flowers that are spring flowers in other areas, thrive in our cooler summer. Larkspur of course, peonies, tulips, poppies, bells of Ireland, love in a mist, forget me nots, strawflower, and many others are wonderful additions to your cutting garden. Give them a try!

Summer is the farm's busy season. Long days of planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, processing, and arranging are ahead. It is exhausting, but there's nowhere I'd rather be all summer than outside in the flowers. This summer we will be joining The Larkspur Farmers Market, so drop by and say hi! I would love to talk flowers and meet all of our lovely Larkspur neighbors.



If you would like to include your business in a "Small Business Feature," please email <a href="mailto:larkspursentinel@gmail.com">larkspursentinel@gmail.com</a>.

#### A Walk on the Wild Side...

by Susan Peters

# Season Rhythms...Take a Hike...Critter Control...Short Takes

#### Summer, REALLY?

I can shout HURRAY! And do back flips! We finally have warmth and a break in the mega-moisture that rivaled the Noah's flood era. Only the ark was missing. Once more we were short-changed on having a real spring before the summer heat began frying us. Now sitting on the deck in the cool summer evening, the smell of wild roses wafts to my nose. The jack hammer pounding of a nearby flicker permeates the air. Baby birds flutter rapidly on the deck railing, demanding to be fed by a nearby (clearly annoyed) parent. A male bluebird's frenzied antics in the bird bath may mean he has a hot date tonight. Wildflowers and mushrooms resulting from the rains stand side-byside in an unlikely display. The trees are draped in heavy loads of pine cones, food for so many of our critters.

Tree frogs and leopard frogs rejoiced in the excess water, chirping well into June. But now the mosquitoes are swarming in record numbers for this area. I only saw one all last summer. So far, I have counted three. I bought 20 of those mosquito donuts to throw in possible breeding water areas.

And too soon the Miller moths will invade. Too soon the terrors of the hummingbird world, the Rufus hummers, will take over the hummingbird feeders. OUCH! Not soon enough to put out the yellow jacket bait. And not soon enough for the plethora of brown headed cowbirds that dominate the seed feeders to depart for their wintering grounds, leaving their eggs in nests of other birds to be hatched and raised by NOT THEM. The mention of winter makes me shudder.

#### **Bird Mecca**

Wow! What a year! Thanks to Merlin, I am identifying birds right and left, some new to my life list. Within 30 minutes, Merlin identifies 20 plus species. But first, let's address two missing species from years past. Last year I noticed dwindling numbers of brown-headed cowbirds. This year – zip. What has happened to them, inquiring minds want to know. I contacted the local Audubon and



they have no clue. The other missing species is the tree swallow. Again, their numbers had dwindled last year. Last year I identified three species of doves: mourning, banded, and rock. So far, this year only the mourning dove is hanging around. I fully expect to see the banded dove...they were here earlier in the year.

We used to have large numbers of black-chinned hummers. Last year there were a few. This year, none. Sob.

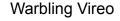
The nasty song sparrow is back. These are the guys who will pluck baby birds out of their nests to eat them. And the baby turkeys (pullets) are now scampering behind their moms, often with many other families.

So, let's move on to the new kids on the block.

Cordilleran Flycatcher – these tiny guys have high sweet voices and seem to be everywhere. Here is a stock photo: Both the male and female are drab in coloration with the female being drabber.









Yellow-breasted chat



Ruby-crowned Kinglet

continued on next page

#### Wild Side continued from previous page

It's been a blue moon since I have seen night hawks, but sure enough, they flew above us with their shrill calls. They follow the heat and flying insects and are best seen in early evening.

I can't believe it! It's July and that means fastening your seatbelts as the raucousy Rufous hummingbirds drop in for a month, leaving their kiddos here for us to raise and feed then they head south. Every year the Rufouses arrive on July 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. Amazing.

Somebody on Next Door posted a picture of a Bullock's Oriole, seen on the Sandstone Ranch trail. Every few years one comes through,

attracted to the hummingbird feeders. They are stunning. But they are attracted to orange, like halved oranges and orange-colored feeders with nectar.



Speaking of Merlin, it has announced new versions for Canada and parts of Mexico.

#### Travels to the Other Side of the World

We really did not see any wildlife in Scotland, just zillions of sheep – white sheep, gray sheep, and black sheep. But what captured my eye were the Scottish Highland cattle. Or "hairy coo" as the locals and Canadians call them. I bought a



stuffed one to add to my extensive collection of stuffed animals that includes bears, of course, a kangaroo, a quakka, an otter, two golden retrievers, a koala, and others.

In Singapore, the only bird we picked up on was the common tailor bird. After all, Singapore is a concrete jungle with lots of greenery, gardens, and flowers. They have signs in various places saying "Otter Crossing." Otters live in the Singapore River and come into the city, laying on the benches and stairs. So, Singapore

does have wildlife. There are no mosquitoes in the city! They have a robust seek and destroy program to eliminate that wildlife. Outside the

city, it is lush green with lots of birds, and one can easily find orangutans, white tigers, otters, dolphins, monkeys, elephants, and civets.



Moving along to Borneo where the mosquitos are not bad, except for hubby Dave, who is a magnet for them. A river boat trip brought us in sight of many crocodiles, none as big as the ones in Costa Rica. We spotted a young one, about a foot long, on a beach. In the trees, large groups of proboscises (with big shnozzes) and macaque monkeys sat or swung in the trees.

We did not see orangutans and sun bears until we visited sanctuaries. Some of the enclosures

are for the orphaned orangutans. Other areas are open for the wild ones to come and eat to supplement their diet. We were fortunate enough that the big papa visited to get more than his fair share of fruit. Orangutans build a new nest every day to sleep



in. The workers have to train the orphans to build their own nests.

We were fortunate to capture a picture of a flying

lemur resting on a tree. On the boat trip we saw two species of horned bills, along with a gorgeous kingfisher. The only animal we missed was the pygmy elephant, which is elusive. They aren't so tiny though.



But folks – Embrace the wildlife and the culture of the world.

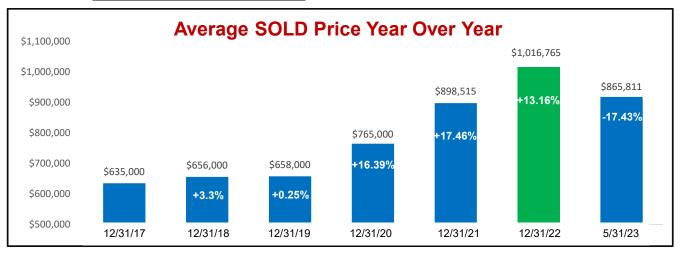
How to Contact Me: Email is best at susan@ larkspurconsulting.com.

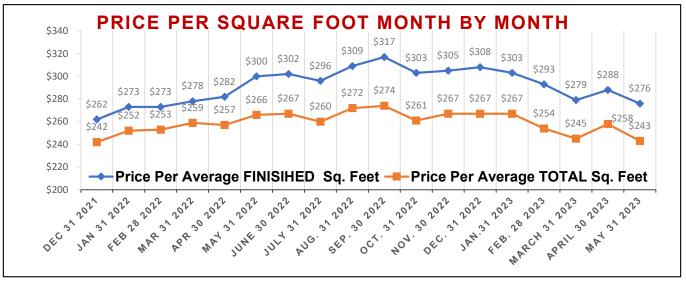


#### Larkspur Area Real Estate Stats - HOMES SOLD

Homes Currently For-Sale (6/20/2023) ---20 (\$750,000 to \$1,949,000) --- Median \$1,150,000 <u>Average Days on Market --- 64</u>

Homes Currently "Under Contract" --- 22 (\$599,900 to \$1,595,000) --- Median \$1,154,500 <u>Average Days on Market --- 44</u>





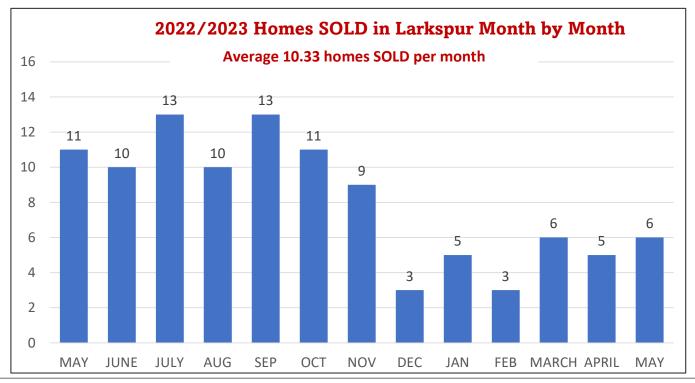
---The charts above represent a 6-month study of home sales ending on the last date of the month indicated. The top 2 and bottom 2 sales have been removed/deleted from each study. This is because very unusual properties can skew the factors that reflect actual market conditions. For example, a property with 100 acres but having a small 600 Sq. Foot house would be something that is simply not "typical". And because one property sells for over \$4 million does not mean that all other properties have gone up in value. Likewise, a property selling under \$250,000 does not mean that all others have gone down in value.

---The above information has been researched from the Metro Denver MLS System (www.REcolorado.com) by **Dave Gardner of Results Realty of Colorado**, located in the Town of Larkspur, CO. It is believed to be accurate but is NOT guaranteed. Every property will have unique factors affecting value such as location, condition, acreage, quality, size, age, upgrades and features. A thorough inperson assessment by an experienced real estate broker or licensed real estate appraiser is recommended to determine the actual current market value on an individual property.

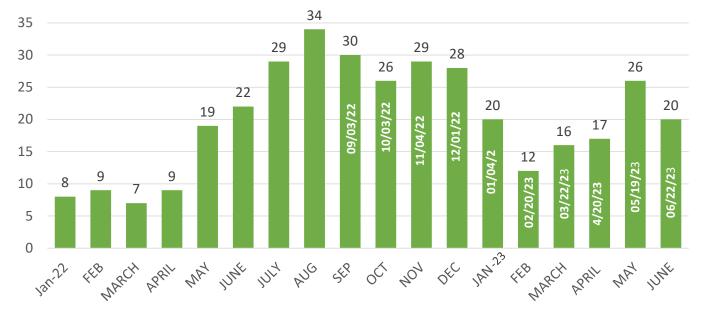
Results Realty of Colorado—Dave Gardner's Results Team 9164 Spruce Mountain Rd., Larkspur, CO 80118 \* 303-681-1000 \* www.HomesInLarkspurCO.com



### **Larkspur Real Estate Stats**



#### 2022/2023 Homes FOR SALE in Larkspur Month by Month



Results Realty of Colorado is Located on the Main Street of Larkspur 9164 Spruce Mountain Rd., Larkspur, CO 80118 303-681-1000

<u>DavesResultsTeam@yahoo.com</u> <u>www.HomesInLarkspurCO.com</u>

#### **TEENS FOR HIRE**

**COLIN:** I am 13 and live in Perry Park Ranch. I'd like to help you with pet sitting, plant watering and yard work. Please text **414-430-1363.** 

LEXI: I am 13 years old. I come from a family of 10 and live in Sedalia. I have experience with babysitting, doing barn chores, and taking care of animals. I'm currently involved in 4-H and I enjoy cooking and baking. You can reach me through my mom Rachel at 361-772-8620.

If you would like to add a listing to this section, please fill out the form here:

Teens for Hire Submission Form

#### **ADVERTISING RATES**

Pricing is for Camera Ready Art

Classified	\$5/line (\$10 min)
Business Card (scan only)	\$40.00
Quarter Page Ad(3-1/2"w X 5"h)	\$50.00
Half Page Ad (7-1/2"w X 5"h)	\$62.50
Full Page Ad (7-1/2"w X 10"h)	\$87.50

Submit ad art to larkspursentinel@gmail.com

#### **DEADLINES**

Articles/Letters/Ad Artwork/Classified Ads

20th of each month

Any ads in this newsletter are paid for by the advertiser and do not represent an endorsement from the editor, publisher, writers, or others affiliated with the production of this communication.

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

The Larkspur Sentinel, LLC is a volunteer

organization. Any questions, suggestions, ad requests can be emailed to

larkspursentinel@gmail.com

#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

SECURITY DOORS & RETRACTABLE SCREENS: for sale along with screen repair in the Larkspur area.

Call Jack Hoyt 719-231-1719.

FIRE MITIGATION specialists, tree removals, pruning. Call Rampart-Susan Rule 303-351-2207

**COLORADO MASTICATION:** fire mitigation, scrub oak removal, lot and brush clearing.

719-400-9104

**SPRAYTECH:** preventive beetle spraying, noxious weed control, tree spraying for insects & diseases, tree deep root watering & fertilizing.

720-248-0000

The Larkspur Sentinel, LLC volunteer staff reserves the right to refuse any article or advertising submission.

The Larkspur Sentinel invites your letters, comments, and ideas for columns.

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 Larkspur Sentinel will correct all errors that occur. If you find a problem with a story – an error of fact, or a point requiring clarification, please email

larkspursentinel@gmail.com.

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