



Larkspur

Sentinel

September 2023

Serving Perry Park, Larkspur,
and the surrounding community

Fall is here!

Warm days and cool evenings have arrived! We've had some gorgeous sunsets recently. . . beautiful clouds and great color. Such a lovely time of year, although, I'm not ready to be done with summer, and I'm definitely not ready to shovel snow! This is the time when bears are getting ready to hibernate, so we need to be extra vigilant with our garbage, garage doors, pets, etc. Their garbage scattering talent is showing around our zip code!

You all will be glad to know that the Larkspur Farmer's Market plans to continue into October - what a lovely addition that has been to our summer! And the Monday night food truck schedule will continue into the fall as well. The Wirewood Station Music in the Park concert that was rained out has been re-scheduled for September 6. Head to the Farmer's Market, and stay for some music. Mark your calendar for the Arts & Crafts fest on Sept 16-17 - lots to look forward to in Larkspur this fall!

Kudos to Dana Fuller and her team for the beautiful gardens in downtown Larkspur!

If you would like to include your business in a "Small Business Feature," please email me - it's easy to do. You write the article, and submit a few pictures. We edit and format the article. That's it.

As I mentioned last month, I am looking for someone, or a few someones, who would like to produce/edit the Sentinel. Training and transition time will be included. It's a great opportunity to be involved in the community. Please reach out if you are interested in any part of this effort: larkspursentinel@gmail.com.

Thanks to all of you for your kindness to each other. It really makes a difference, doesn't it?!!

Simply,

Margot Patterson

Editor

larkspursentinel@gmail.com

**The Sentinel will not sell or voluntarily disclose your email address to others, nor use it for any purpose other than informing about the Sentinel, and its local projects.*

Front page photo credit with appreciation. . . Mike Montgomery



ELIZABETH OWENS



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



5133 ECHO VALLEY ROAD | PERRY PARK | 10 ACRES! | JUST SOLD! | \$1,949,000



4996 CHIPPEWA DRIVE | PERRY PARK | JUST LISTED! | OFFERED AT \$850,000



8154 INCA ROAD | PERRY PARK | JUST LISTED! | OFFERED AT \$1,199,000



4850 CROW DRIVE | PERRY PARK | OFFERED AT \$1,150,000



6402 WALCONDA DRIVE | PERRY PARK | JUST SOLD! \$1,120,000



1845 CINNAMON ROAD | STERLING POINTE | OFFERED AT \$1,250,000

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?

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

Sep 6 - Larkspur Farmers Market - 3:00-7:00 pm, Community Park

Sep 6 - Music in the Park - 6 pm - Wirewood Station

Sep 11 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park

Sep 14 - Larkspur Farmers Market - 3:00-7:00 pm, Community Park

Sep 13 & Sep 20 - 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 cjaspsjr@yahoo.com. Come join us!

Sep 14 - 6 pm - Perry Park Metro District Board Meeting at Perry Park Country Club and via Zoom.

Sep 14 - 6 pm - Larkspur Fire District Board of Directors meeting at Larkspur Fire Station 161.

Sep 16 & 17 - Arts and Crafts Fest, Community Park

Sep 18 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park

Sep 20 - Larkspur Farmers Market - 3:00-7:00 pm, Community Park

Sep 25 - Food Trucks at the Park - 4:00-8:00 pm, Community Park



WE ARE BACK!

Larkspur
AUTUMN
ARTS + CRAFTS
Fest

SEPT 16 & 17, 2023
LARKSPUR COMMUNITY PARK
FREE EVENT FOOD + DRINKS



FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

by *Wayne Moore, Member-Board of Directors*

July calls by Incident Type

Total calls: 102

Fire Alarm: 5 2 comercial, 2 residential

Fire: 7 1 structure, 1 dumpster, 1 outbuilding, 3 vehicles,
1 commercial vehicle

Gas: 3 1 leak, 1 cut line, 1 other

Life Assist: 1

Lightning: 1

Lockout: 6 All non-emergent, 4 at the Ren Fair

MCI: 1

Med Assist: 48 17 at the Ren Fair

Misc Assist: 5

Motor Vehicle Accident: 18 18 unknown injury, 3 injury, 1 extrication/injury

Odor Investigation: 1

Smoke Investigation: 2 1 inside, 1 outside

**Larkspur Fire
Protection District
Board Meeting
Thursday, Sep 14th
6:00 pm at Station 161**

Public is welcome to attend.
Please check the website for
details.

larkspurfire.org



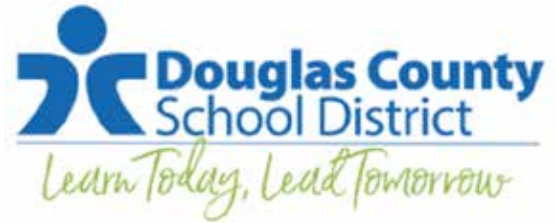
Perry Park Fire Mitigation Grant Application

The Perry Park Metro District (PPMD) will be applying for a grant to complete fire mitigation projects on community owned properties within Perry Park. The proposed grant would reimburse PPMD and any participating homeowners 50% of the project costs. There is no obligation to participate if you sign up and later find the costs too prohibitive when you get a quote. But, this is a great opportunity to complete fire mitigation projects at half the cost.

Sign up to indicate your interest in joining our fire mitigation efforts at <https://forms.gle/r9WwDEHTDDhxLS8x8>

**PERRY PARK METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO**

DCSD Celebrates Increases in Student State Assessment Scores



The Colorado Department of Education has released state assessment results for all Colorado school districts and it is cause for celebration in the Douglas County School District (DCSD). Overall, the percentage of DCSD students who met or exceeded expectations on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) tests increased from last year, and exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

“We are particularly pleased with the overall gains made in ELA (English Language Arts) as that has been a focus area for our district,” said Matt Reynolds, DCSD Learning Services Officer. “Many of our identified subgroups also saw large gains in ELA performance.”

For example, 23.1% of DCSD fifth-grade students who are on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) met or exceeded expectations in ELA on the 2023 assessment, compared to 18.3% the previous year.

When looking at both ELA and Math results for all tested grades, the only declines seen were in eighth-grade ELA and third-grade Math. When compared to the previous year, these scores dropped only 0.3% and 0.2% respectively. All other grades saw increases in test scores, with the exception of fourth-grade ELA, which remained flat. In Math, overall DCSD mean scale scores increased in all grade levels.

“The dedication showcased by educators, parents, and students throughout the past year has been nothing short of inspiring,” said Susana Cordova, Colorado Education Commissioner.

DCSD outperformed the state in all grade levels and subjects.

Douglas County School District Board of Education Authorizes Mill Levy Override and Bond for 2023 Ballot

The Douglas County School District Board of Education (BOE) has authorized Mill Levy Override (MLO) and Bond questions for the 2023 ballot. On August 8, the BOE unanimously voted 7-0 to place before voters a \$66 million MLO and a \$484 million Bond.

If the MLO and Bond are approved by voters, Douglas County homeowners will pay \$20 per year per \$100,000 of home value. For example, a Douglas County resident with a home valued at \$1,000,000 would pay approximately an additional \$200 per year if both measures are approved.

“The future of Douglas County is literally sitting in the classrooms today. You may have heard that the Douglas County School District is the engine that drives our county. Help us supercharge that engine,” said DCSD Board of Education President Mike Peterson. “We are moving from our funding needs being in an urgent state last year, to a critical state this year.”

The [MLO resolution](#) approved by the Board of Education outlines the specific salary increases the different employee groups would receive if the MLO is approved by voters. Currently, DCSD teachers are paid \$15,000-\$20,000 less than neighboring school districts. MLO dollars would also be used to increase and maintain school security support, such as School Resource Officers

continued on next page

(SROs). A \$66 million MLO would enable DCSD to provide pay that is more competitive with other school districts to recruit and retain teachers and staff. Several people participated in [Public Comment](#) at the August 8 Board of Education meeting.

“We heard from seniors, we heard from business leaders, we heard from teachers, we heard from principals, we heard from students. For me, I was ready to vote after the students,” said Board of Education Director David Ray. “I wrote her [student] quote down: ‘funding matters when it comes to a quality education.’ If we don’t respond to that, I don’t know what it will take us to be able to say we have to make sure this happens.”

The BOE also authorized a \$484 million bond for the 2023 ballot. A \$484 million Bond would be used for school safety and security upgrades; trade, career and technical education opportunities for students; and updating, maintaining, and constructing educational facilities consistent with the district bond plan; and to reduce overcrowding.

[Click here for details](#) on what each of DCSD’s existing schools would receive should the Bond be approved by voters.

[Read more about DCSD’s funding challenges.](#)



M.R. HAULING
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Affordable Pricing
Fire Mitigation
Remodel and Construction Debris Demolition
Ranch Land Cleanup

Chris Miller
303-919-1996
mrhauling19@gmail.com



Perry Park Metropolitan District

The Special District For Perry Park Ranch

by Steve Ostrowski, Secretary, PPMD Board of Directors

Your Perry Park Metropolitan District (PPMD) is funded with tax revenues based on property valuations. As you have likely noticed, property valuations soared to historic increases in this year's cycle, with an average increase of approximately 47% in Douglas County. This will result in a large increase of revenue to all taxing districts in 2024. The Colorado Supreme Court recently allowed Proposition HH to appear on our ballots in November and delayed a challenge to this until after the election. The PPMD is a relatively small part of your total taxing districts, and all of them will see increased revenues. Taxing districts have the ability to lower tax rates (mill levies) temporarily or permanently. Please stay informed on this hot topic this year and share your thoughts with your districts and representatives.

Other current topics on the board include:

- Entryway Improvements - plans for the entryway improvements have progressed and we are proceeding with phase 1 planning, including burying overhead power lines and establishing infrastructure for future landscaping.
- Cellular Service Improvements - we are progressing on adding cellular towers which would improve communications for residents and also help in emergencies. The industry is slowing its expansion and setting up towers will be a long-term initiative.
- 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 - a walkway has been cleared around the pond while we stay

open to further improvements as allowed by waterway management issues.

- Committees - we always need volunteers to improve our community. There is a Firewise Committee, an Entry Design Committee, a Parks and Open Space Committee, and an Independence Day Planning 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, you can reach out to us at info@perrypark.org to offer your help and we'll get you connected.
- Donations to Community Events - we have a non-profit, 501c(3) fund that is a tax-deductible fund - the Perry Park Community Fund. See our website for more information.

Our September board meeting is Thursday, Sept. 14, 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 <https://www.perrypark.org> - Zoom and in-person attendance are options, making it convenient for you to participate. We hope you'll join us.

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

PPMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

"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 the 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"



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



For Sale!

**596 Independence Dr
 Hidden Forest, Larkspur
 \$1,671,000**

**6 Bedroom/6 Bathrooms
 Attached Guest House**



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.



Just Sold!
 623 Cumberland Road
 Hidden Forest, Larkspur
 \$1,195,000



For Sale!
 1449 Gore Drive, Larkspur ~ \$1,195,000

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.

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!"

Feedback from Dale and Kathy Bray

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Maui (Lahaina) Fire and Larkspur Area- Too Similar?

by Keith Worley, Consulting Forester and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

Our hearts are breaking for those who lost loved ones in the Lahaina Wildfire. And I'm also thinking could this happen to us and how do we prevent it from happening? My past articles have touched on many of the things we, as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) dwellers, must be prepared for.

Those of us in the wildfire education and mitigation field often feel we are shouting into the wind and no one hears. Randy Johnson and I, as past presidents of the Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners, often shared our frustrations with our fellow mitigation specialists. Hello! Is anyone out there?

First, you need a plan. . .for you, your family, and your pets. But even before this, you need to recognize that you live in a high-risk, wildfire prone environment. You are in the Red Zone! For many of us, our insurance companies have already told us this. Once you come to this realization, it prioritizes putting your plan together.

Second, you need to educate yourself. There are many websites and tons of information about wildfire and how to mitigate for it. Contact the Fire Marshal to have an individual assessment. The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) website has almost everything you need to know about wildfire. www.csfs.colostate.edu They even have a mapping tool that allows you to enter your address and show your wildfire risks. The Firewise USA® site also has on-line learning tools. www.firewise.org

Third, make your home and property more fire adapted. Be Firewise! Your eventual goal, assuming you are working with your neighbors and community, is to work at a neighborhood scale. This will help wildland firefighters be more effective with all their equipment and "tools". It doesn't matter if it is manpower, engines, equipment, or aerial resources. These can only be effective if you have taken responsibility for your property. An Australian saying is "You own the fuel; you own the fire."

Maui is not a new phenomenon. It is one that

keeps repeating itself over and over. And will continue until we act. Sorry to break it to you, but you chose to live here, and you no longer have the privilege of just calling 911. Wildfire doesn't work that way when hundreds of homes are threatened at one time.

Regarding the Lahaina Miracle House label? It wasn't really a miracle. The owners admit that when they remodeled, they had no thoughts of wildfire. But their selection of materials and arrangement of fuels met all the criteria of a Firewise dwelling. Put simply, the home, either by accident or on purpose, became a "Stand Alone" home that met the definition of a Firewise home: that it can survive with minimal intervention of the fire services.

(Try this link to take you to the article.)

[How did the 'red house' survive the Lahaina fire? - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

Below is some commentary on my response to this wildfire:

- Marshal Fire was basically a 100% wind driven ember event.
- 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, that took out almost 350 homes in the Mountain Shadows neighborhood, was a 90% wind-driven ember event. Only 10% abutted native fuels.
- Wildfire mitigation is a combination of ember proofing (structural hardening) and creation of Defensible-space within a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ). This is where PPMD's role comes into play to complete HIZs that should ideally be 300-600 feet deep. You cannot do one and not the other.
- It's the fuels: 1) vegetative fuels; 2) structural fuels; and 3) maintenance of both.
- Firewise is forever given where we live.
- Fire Adaption is our long-term goal. Put simply? Evolve, adapt, or die. We must adapt.

I may paint a gloomy picture. But I also want to recognize and thank all of you who did hear our messages. Many of you are doing a great job of acknowledging our risks and you have taken action. For you, keep up the good work!

Wildfire Evacuation Drill held in Perry Park

*by Deborah Takahara, Public Information Officer,
Douglas County Sheriff's Office*

In a proactive effort to enhance community safety and preparedness, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management recently organized a comprehensive mock evacuation drill for the Perry Park neighborhood. The exercise aimed to test and refine emergency response strategies in the face of a potential wildfire crisis. The mock evacuation, which took place from 9 am to noon on Saturday, August 27th, brought together 36 members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, along with members of the Larkspur Fire Department, the Castle Rock Fire Chief, and community safety volunteers.



Sheriff Darren Weekly emphasized the importance of such drills in fostering a coordinated response among different agencies. "Wildfires can spread rapidly, leaving little time for decision-making during an actual emergency. By conducting these mock evacuations, we can identify areas of improvement, evaluate our communication channels, and enhance our overall readiness to protect and assist our community," Sheriff Weekly said.

The drill followed a carefully crafted script that involved staged evacuation orders, traffic management procedures, and the establishment of an emergency shelter at Larkspur Elementary School. 80 residents of Perry Park participated, providing them with firsthand experience in packing essential items and pets, coordinating with neighbors, and navigating evacuation routes. Some participants played the role of residents refusing to leave, which helped deputies navigate what to do and say in that situation. The average evacuation time to the emergency egress gate was 28 minutes.



Feedback from the participants was largely positive, with many expressing gratitude for the opportunity to practice their emergency plans in a controlled environment. Keith Worley, Perry Park resident and Firewise Committee member, stated, "For us, wildfire is not a matter of if, but when. The drill helped my wife and I prepare a list of our most treasured and irreplaceable possessions. We are hoping we will have time to grab stated them."

The lessons learned from the exercise will be used to fine-tune evacuation procedures and develop targeted educational campaigns to raise public awareness about wildfire safety. Residents were alerted by the County's CodeRed emergency alert system (a majority elected to receive the notification by cell phone). You can sign up for CodeRed notifications here: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/84B13CCD6B41>

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS REGISTRY

If you or someone in your household has special needs that may hinder one's ability to evacuate, you or your care provider should register with the Sheriff's office so emergency responders can assist you.



DAVE GARDNER'S *Results* Team



Office located on the Main Street of Larkspur



FOR SALE
\$1,049,900



1194 Silverheels - Perry Park East

Rare 5-ACRE Custom Ranch on a Douglas County PAVED and Maintained Road with Main Floor Primary Suite and Finished Walkout Basement. Spacious "Great-Room" concept with Passive Solar Design!

FOR SALE
\$749,900



2714 Valley Park Dr. -Valley Park

INSTANT EQUITY OPPOTUNITY! This Charming Little House is 1,323 Sq. feet, 3Bed/1Bath located in Valley Park. PACKAGE DEAL, TOTAL of 3 separate lots and the house for FREE!

UNDER CONTACT
\$1,099,900



5846 S Pike Dr. - Perry Park

Spacious Custom Ranch-Style Home with Finished Walkout Basement in superbly maintained move-in condition. This home has been loved! Large main floor Master, finished walk-out-basement, 5292 Total Sq. Feet!

UNDER CONTRACT
\$949,900



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!

FOR SALE
\$399,999



1098 Silverheels Dr. - Perry Park East

READY-TO-BUILD 5-Acre Lot with BREATHTAKING MOUNTAIN VIEW on County Maintained PAVED Road with Public Water and Natural Gas!

FOR SALE
\$64,900



13055 Andiron Way. - Woodmoor Mountain

This 3.392-Acre Lot is at the end of a very private forested Cul-De-Sac. Located near the Pike National Forest! Secluded and private mountain location in Douglas County--very quiet and peaceful.



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



Herbs in your Garden

by Marla Leggette

Culinary Herbs

Planting, growing, and then drying your garden herbs is a great way to make your garden last through the winter. You can use them in all kinds of recipes. Drying them yourself is actually less expensive than buying them at the store. And they are fresher and more fragrant when they come from your garden.



Many of the non-organic herbs that you buy are most likely sprayed with toxic pesticides. They may have also been exposed to gamma radiation which is used to kill microbes and insects. So if you grow perennial herbs such as oregano, thyme, dill, tarragon, sage, you can have healthier herbs year-round but even more so if they are organic. If you aren't growing the herbs at home, your local farmer's market may have what you want.

If you begin to pick your herbs early in the season before they flower, you can continue to pick from them all summer. Picking early will also keep plants from becoming overgrown. And many will grow well into the fall.

I usually pick herbs first thing in the morning, after the sun has dried them, and then wash them in cool water. I pat them dry with a towel or let them dry on a rack. This is a good time to pick off any dead or insect-bitten leaves. Air drying, good for rosemary, oregano, sage and thyme, is an easy method and smells good. I make a bundle of the herbs, maybe 2-3 branches, tie them together with string, and hang them upside down in a dry, cool place, away from the sun. There are drying racks you can purchase but a nail or cup hook works well too.



It's wise to keep checking on your herb bundles to make sure they do not have bugs and that they are not getting moldy. They should be dry and ready for use in a few weeks.

You can store your herbs by removing the dried leaves from their stems, whole or crushed, depending on how you plan to use them. Any kind of clean jar, or old spice jar works well for storage. Consider using muslin tea bags for a fresh herb tea. Store in a cool dry place, label for easier use and enjoy!

Medicinal Herb

Lavender is a garden favorite for many people and making an oil out of its flowers is something you may want to do each year. I pick my flowers in the morning after the sun has dried them out. I lay them on a paper towel for a few days until they are dry. Fill a glass jar about 3/4 full of the dried buds and fill the container with an oil of your choice. I prefer either almond or jojoba oil. Store it in a sunny place for at least a month and as long as a year. The longer it soaks the stronger the smell. Strain with cheesecloth and use it in place of lotion after a shower, or pour some in your bath.



The Douglas County Garden Club will be resuming their monthly meetings at the Castle Rock Library beginning on September 5, at 1:00 pm, in room F. The topic for September is getting ready for fall and winter. Visitors are always welcome!

Upcoming Events from The Larkspur Historical Society



A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST ...HUNTSVILLE

Saturday, September 9 ...1:00PM – 3:30PM

See the 1873 restored Crull Cabin off Bear Dance Road. Learn about 1859 Huntsville, the first community in what-would-become Douglas County. Learn about Sarah Coberly, and meet D. C. Oakes, the first postmaster of Douglas County. You will hear from John Hammond, the longest serving sheriff, who owned the cabin later in the 20th century.

Children will have fun with activities that were popular in pioneering days. There's even a *whatumacallit* table that may stump adults as well. Refreshments will be served. For more information or RSVP, call Nancy Page-Cooper, 720.849.0718.

Hey, also catch us at our Information Cabin (cabin # 2) of Larkspur's *Cabin Village* We are open from 3:00PM to 5:00PM during Wednesdays at the Larkspur Farmer's Market.

And ...keep the evening of October 18 open for *The Settling of Southern Douglas County*. See the October Sentinel for details!



Larkspur Historical Society

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



Aging Resources of Douglas County has been supporting and celebrating older adults for over 15 years, and now we're celebrating our 5th birthday as an official non-profit! In 2018 we became an independent 501c3 and embarked on a new adventure to help the older adults of Douglas County age with independence and on their own terms. Since then we've worked tirelessly to meet the ever-increasing needs of older adults throughout Douglas County. Our services are free, and the needs are great.

One of the most requested programs at ARDC, Help at Home, began in response to requests for in-home services from our clients and their families. To remain independent and in your home longer, sometimes, you just need a little help. And that is what this program is all about – a wraparound service program that improves independence and quality of life! Starting from a small pilot program established in the summer of 2022, Help at Home has quickly blossomed, offering people meal assistance, reassurance calls, emotional check-ins, and access to in-home services.

Transportation continues to be a very popular program! Rides to medical appointments, trips to the grocery store, and quality-of-life trips are so important in helping people age with independence. In 2022, Aging Resources provided 13,269 rides! Through our amazing volunteer force and with the Aging Resources fleet of vehicles (several of which are ADA compliant) we work hard to help older adults in Douglas County get where they need to go.

The Companion Program has seen tremendous growth over the past couple of years. Did you know that the Surgeon General declared loneliness an epidemic this year? Older adults are the most affected population, and chronic loneliness can increase one's risk of dementia by up to 50%? The Companion Program at ARDC works to combat loneliness by pairing a socially isolated older adult with a volunteer companion. An ongoing visit, whether in person or over the phone, provides the essential social connection people need to thrive. In 2022, Aging Resources provided over 600 hours of quality companion connection between seniors and volunteers!

Keeping up with routine home chores and yard work can be challenging when you're dealing with mobility issues. That's where ARDC's Chore/Yard Assistance program really makes a difference! Individuals, families, and groups volunteer to assist older homeowners with these tasks. From changing out a light bulb in a cathedral ceiling to raking up the fall leaves, our volunteers provide that extra hand so residents can feel good about their homes and thrive in their neighborhoods.

Aging Resources is proud to be the central aging information center for the entire Douglas County area. Our aging experts answer calls and questions five days a week. They are committed to providing resources that serve and support older adult residents, their families, and caregivers. Last year, Aging Resources answered 14,277 calls and inquiries through our Resource Navigation Call Center. Additionally, our outreach and education efforts resulted in 6,036 contacts out in the community. The Older Adult Resource Guide is a trusted publication for Douglas County residents, listing resources and providers committed to serving the county's residents. We publish the directory as a community service, and businesses cannot pay to be included or advertise as part of their listings.

continued on next page

ARDC continued from previous page

Aging Resources can't do all this alone! With the help of our wonderful volunteers, community partners, donors, and grantors we're able to help older adults have a strong voice in how they age.

We're excited to celebrate our 5th birthday on September 7th at the Healing Gardens at Castle Rock Adventist Health from 4-6 p.m. We'd love to have you join us in celebrating all that we've accomplished and all that we have ahead of us. Please give us a call at 303-814-4300 to RSVP! Can't join us in person but would like to provide a birthday blessing to a local senior? Make a donation to Aging Resources via our website at www.goardc.org.

Older Adult Resource Guide is a trusted publication for Douglas County residents, listing resources and providers committed to serving the county's residents. We publish the directory as a community service, and businesses cannot pay to be included or advertise as part of their listings.

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We're officially turning five!

COME CELEBRATE AGING RESOURCES 5TH BIRTHDAY AS A NONPROFIT!

- *When:* Thursday, September 7, 2023 4:00-6:00 (celebratory toast at 5:00)
- *Where:* The Healing Garden at Castle Rock Adventist Hospital - 2350 Meadows Boulevard, Castle Rock, CO 80109
- *RSVP at 303-814-4300 or by scanning the QR Code below!*





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Local P.E.O. Chapter IC to host Games & Gourmet Event Support Women's Education

by Barbara Allen

Castle Rock-based P.E.O. Chapter IC will host its first (hopefully annual) Games & Gourmet event Saturday, October 21 from 11 am to 3:30 pm at the beautiful Perry Park Country Club.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of games and a silent auction. Hear from our most recent local scholarship winner, then indulge in a plated lunch featuring a delicious Cobb salad and fancy dessert. Stack the odds in your favor to win your favorite gourmet gift basket or play it safe and buy a goodie-themed centerpiece! Spend the rest of the afternoon in friendly competition playing two games of your choice - from classics like Farkle and UNO to new games like Exploding Kittens and Zombie Dice.

Proceeds of the Games & Gourmet event support P.E.O. philanthropies.

I'd guess most readers have only heard of P.E.O. if a close friend or relative is a member. We're a pretty quiet group, focused on supporting each other and our mission. P.E.O. (Philanthropic Education Organization) has been celebrating "Women Helping Women Reach for the Stars" for more than 150 years. Since its inception in 1869, the nonprofit organization has helped more than 122,000 women pursue educational goals by providing nearly \$415 million in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans. The Sisterhood also owns and supports Cottey College in Nevada, MO. In fact, Savannah Guthrie, co-anchor of the Today Show, is a former P.E.O. Scholar Award recipient.

What started with a bond of friendship among seven women in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is now one of the oldest women's organizations in North America with nearly 5,600 chapters. Your local chapter was organized in 1989 in Castle Rock. To learn more about P.E.O., its powerful educational philanthropies, and see stories of women who have benefited from the programs, visit <https://www.peointernational.org>.

Don't miss out on this incredible event that combines the best of Games and Gourmet! Contact for more information: Karen Johnson 720/272-1464, kbmjohnson@comcast.net. We can't wait to see you there!

Tickets are \$45 and include plated lunch and games. To purchase tickets visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/games-gourmet-tickets-668186001317?aff=oddtcreator>

Cut-off for ticket sales is Oct 1st.

Note: P.E.O. Chapters support the educational and charitable funds of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, but are not classified as charitable by the IRS. Therefore, donations to individual chapters including in the

As of April 2023, P.E.O. has awarded:

Education Loan Fund dollars totaling \$243 million
International Peace Scholarships totaling \$48 million
Program for Continuing Education Grants totaling \$70 million
Scholar Awards totaling \$34 million
P.E.O. STAR Scholarships totaling \$20 million

FREE LARKSPUR AREA Shred Event

**SATURDAY, SEPT 16TH
FROM 9AM-11AM**

Larkspur Town Hall

**8720 Spruce Mountain Rd
Larkspur, CO 80118**



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Douglas County is forming a Water Commission

by Brian Arthurs, Treasurer, Perry Park Water and Sanitation District

This article focuses on Douglas County's formation of a Water Commission which will be charged with producing a comprehensive water plan to carry the county to 2050.

"I am very aware of the criticisms of that proposal. But with where we are — I mean, great, we've got (water) falling every day from the sky, but we're coming off (many) years of hard drought, and water has become a very serious aspect of our business." – George Teal

Commissioner Abe Laydon, in a letter to the county's water providers, stated that the proposed commission would work with water providers to ensure that there is an adequate water supply in terms of quantity, quality, and dependability for existing and future development. The commission would also engage in public outreach and education, promote cooperation and partnerships among county water plan participants, understand long-term supply needs and potential water supply gaps, and identify opportunities for efficiencies or conservation measures.

The county's water commission will commence in the third quarter of this year and meet 6-8 times during the first 12 months with the focus of developing a Douglas County Water Plan.

Laydon also said, "For us to have a long range vision, it would be irresponsible of us not to have a plan for Douglas County." He envisions the county's water plan would be integrated with other water plans from most providers, a coalition of 14 water providers in Douglas and Arapahoe counties. He pointed out that Southwest Metro's plan, for example, doesn't cover unincorporated areas of Douglas County, leaving a gap.

It is important to note, Perry Park Water and Sanitation District (PPWSD) is in an unincorporated area of the county.

The formation of the new body is happening amid a controversy over a proposal to pump 22,000 acre-feet of water per year from the San Luis Valley to Douglas County. Renewable Water Resources, a private company, is behind the proposal. (An acre-foot is the equivalent of 325,851 gallons and will fill a one-foot-deep pool about the size of a football field.)

Renewable Water Resources (RWR), a company that includes former Colorado Governor Bill Owens and his former deputy chief of staff, Sean Tonner, has been trying to buy water from the San Luis Valley for Douglas County since 2018. The company's proposal would involve drilling confined aquifer wells at an estimated cost of about \$600 million.

RWR says that it would provide much-needed water to Douglas County, which is facing a growing water shortage. The company has also said that it would create jobs and boost the economy in the valley.

Real estate developers interested in exporting water they own from the San Luis Valley to Douglas County have contributed thousands of dollars to candidates for the Parker Water and Sanitation District Board, one of the largest water providers in the county, according to reporting from Fresh Water News.

Recently, Robert Kennah won a seat on the Parker water board and received two donations from partners in RWR.

A second RWR-backed candidate, Kory Nelson, also received \$10,000 in donations from RWR, but did not win a seat on the Parker water board.



Water Commission *continued from previous page*

If Nelson had won, RWR would have ties to three members of the five-member board, according to Fresh Water News. Nelson is now suing the board to overturn the May election results. A third Parker board member Brooke Booth is related by marriage to RWR principal Tonner, according to the report.

South Metro Water Supply Authority is a partnership of 14 water providers in the south metro region of Denver. The authority's executive director, Lisa Darling, said that members of the authority are hesitant to join the technical advisory group for the proposed water commission because they are concerned that the commission's work will be duplicative of ongoing efforts or could result in unnecessary regulatory oversight.

In addition, the county's water plan would need to be coordinated with the water plans of most of the county's water providers, including PPWSD.

The county's commissioners would have the final say on who sits on the water commission. This means that the county commissioners would have the power to appoint the members of the water commission. This is important because the water commission will be responsible for developing and implementing the county's water plan.

Two directors of the PPWSD have submitted applications to serve on the eleven-member Douglas County Water Commission. One of their reasons is to gain insights into the commission's purpose and political goals.

PPWSD needs a say in the future of our District.

The Perry Park Water and Sanitation District held its regular board meeting on August 16, 2023. Further information is available on the district website, www.ppwsd.org.

The Larkspur Blanket Brigade Warms Hearts.

From January through June of this year, the Larkspur Blanket Brigade has donated 120 quilts to the following organizations:

Larkspur Elementary School	7
Castle Rock Hospital ER	32
Sweet Dreams	34
Church Youth group	12
Senior Aging Center	35



The Larkspur Blanket Brigade makes quilts for anyone experiencing trauma, loss, adversity, or illness. Formed in 2015 with 4 women, the group has grown to 15 dedicated souls that strive to create and give away 300 quilts each year.

If you know of anyone in need of a little extra comfort, contact Cindy Hotaling at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com. We will arrange to get a quilt to you. We are a 501(c)3 and we operate mainly with donations of fabric. We welcome donations of extra fabric, batting or yarn. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at the Perry Park Country Club, 7047 Perry Park Blvd.

Please consider joining us in this fun endeavor. 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 is how to thread a needle, but if you like to sew, crochet or knit we can accommodate those skills as well. Come join us!

A Walk on the Wild Side...

by Susan Peters

Falling into Fall....Crow or Raven?...Short Takes Not so Soon!

Yup, September means Autumn officially starts. In Colorado, that means nothing. A few years ago, on September 1st, a killing frost stole all the beautiful flowers and left the leaves brown rather than green. Fall used to be my favorite time of year when I lived on the East Coast. But there it was fun to crunch through leaves that were at my feet and not in Kansas where the winds of Colorado deposit them. Snow? What snow? Not until January through early March NOT September through mid-June. Weather does not get crisp in the east until mid-November. Lots of warm or coolish days to frolic in those leaves. Okay. At least here, there's no humidity, few bugs, spacious blue skies in the nice weather, and lots of sun. I guess you would call us "hardy individuals."

Now Spring is my season of choice. After a long, cold winter like last one, seeing a green blade pop from the frozen earth has my heart strings vibrating. Back to the reality for the moment. But the animals cannot be fooled. Bears know that it's time to pack it on before they don their jams for a long winter's nap. And, of course, the birds know if and when to move themselves back to warmer climes.

Active singing went the way of the Spring mating season, but the birds still let out chirps. And, yay! The pygmy nuthatches are back in residence with their tiny "chip, chip, chips". Now the crickets have their legs a rubbin' to snag a babe of their species.

I wish the free app Merlin could tell the difference between young hummingbirds and adult ones. From visual inspection, the adults of both the broadtail and rufous have left the roost. Merlin will help you to confirm when the babies have followed their folks for the winter. But remember to leave out a hummer feeder well into October for the migrating birds or the ones who just missed the train.



Crows and Ravens are Beautiful!

Both species are here: crows (on the left) and their larger cousins in the Corvidae family, the ravens. (on the right) You just need to know some identifiers to tell which is which. What throws us off here is that our crows are unusually large. East coast and west coast crows are considerably smaller. If you want to be sure that you are looking at a raven, take a trip to the Tower of London where the Beefeaters display them sitting on their arms. Call this a well-earned field trip.



Both crows and ravens are the subjects for myths, stories, and symbols. Think Baltimore Ravens ("quoth the raven, NEVERMORE", courtesy of Edgar Allen Poe.) But not the Denver crows. First is their call. For crows, it is "CAW CAW," calling all their buddies when we put out the bird seed. It is illegal to feed crows, but they can't seem to read the signs that say "STOP! No crows allowed!" Or they just chose to ignore them. Crows also have a rattle call for announcing that they are back in their territory, and a sort of chuckling sound, mostly for youngins. For ravens, their call is "croak croak or kronk kronk" and they are great at mimicry even imitating people's voices.

continued on next page

Other visual differences, courtesy of Cornell University:

American Crow

Size: 20" in length
Bill: Moderate bill, often slightly smaller than the head
Tail: Slightly rounded when flying
Wings: Average wingspan 36"

Common Raven

27" in length
Large bill, often longer than the head
Tapered - creates a diamond shape when flying
Average wingspan 46"

Ravens tend to prefer wilder, less populated areas such as forests, mountains, and deserts. Crows are more adaptable and can often be found in urban settings, thriving alongside humans.

While both birds are found throughout North America, ravens have a more extensive range, reaching up to the Arctic

For flight patterns, ravens often soar high in the sky, utilizing thermals, and can be seen doing aerial acrobatics. Crows typically fly at lower altitudes, with a more direct path.

Crows are more sociable, often seen in larger groups or "murders". Ravens, though they can be seen in pairs or small groups, are generally more solitary.

And how about a nest of young crows? Those are sure big babies!



Both birds are highly intelligent and use tools to dig for food. The ravens, though, will cooperate with their mate to accomplish a task. They can recognize themselves in mirrors and even plan for the future. However, specific behaviors and problem-solving abilities can vary between the two species.

A crow once turned on the engine of a car when

the keys were left inside.

Ravens mate for life. Crows like the "one for all and all for one" mating behavior.

Both species both like shiny objects and will take them to their nests. I once lost a shiny tennis bracelet on our property when I could not get the double safety latch open. We even used a metal detector to find it, to no avail. So, it had to be a crow that swiped it.

Now for a true story:

In Portland, Oregon, atop the city's historical library, a pair of ravens has built their nest. These ravens, named Edgar and Lenore by the librarians, are a rarity in such an urban setting. Unlike the social and sometimes noisy gatherings of crows, these two ravens are often seen alone or together as a pair, showcasing a more solitary nature.

Dr. Mitchell, a local ornithologist, began observing these birds and noticed the stark differences in their behaviors. The crows' intelligence was evident as they problem-solved around the city, from opening trash can lids to mimicking car alarms for fun.

The ravens, however, displayed a different kind of intelligence. Edgar, for instance, had a habit of leaving shiny objects near the library's entrance, almost as gifts. Lenore, on the other hand, was seen using twigs as tools to extract insects from tree barks. Their bond was undeniable. Edgar and Lenore had been together for years, a testament to the raven's tendency to form lifelong pairs.



One winter, as snow blanketed Portland, the city's residents witnessed a touching scene. A young crow had been struggling with a piece of wire tangled around its foot. Edgar and Lenore approached the distressed bird. With careful pecks, they managed to free the crow. This act of kindness bridged the world of crows and ravens, showing that despite their differences, compassion was a shared trait.

Short Takes

From Yosemite National Park rangers reported that most hikers hoping to reach the summit of Half Dome require hiking boots and a permit, but one climber recently did it barefoot and without a pass – a black bear. Catching sight of one at Yosemite isn't unusual, but finding one at the summit of Half Dome – which stands at a whopping 8,842 ft above sea level is very surprising indeed.

"Yosemite bears are excellent climbers and can easily tackle the 46-degree angle – no cables needed!"



See the picture I took years ago of a sow and her cub when I was walking at the back of our property in 2002.



And how about the alligator that entered a house in Louisiana through the dog door! Their yapping dog alerted the family to the intrusion. They now lock their dog door at night. Now, we have had bears, raccoons, snakes, and toads come through our dog doors. Aren't we lucky that alligators don't live in these parts.



And how about the snake in Israel that tried to eat a porcupine? It did not go well. Both died. The one-way needles could not be expelled once the snake realized its error.



That's all folks for this month. Dang. The hummingbird feeders need filling again.

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





CASTLE ROCK

Activity on the new Crystal Valley Overpass is picking up with a late 2025 completion target in mind. The two dirt piles on the east side of I-25 continue to grow as they get ready to proceed with the actual overpass development. The rendering



reflects the challenge ahead. Some signs of groundwork on the large Dawson Trails

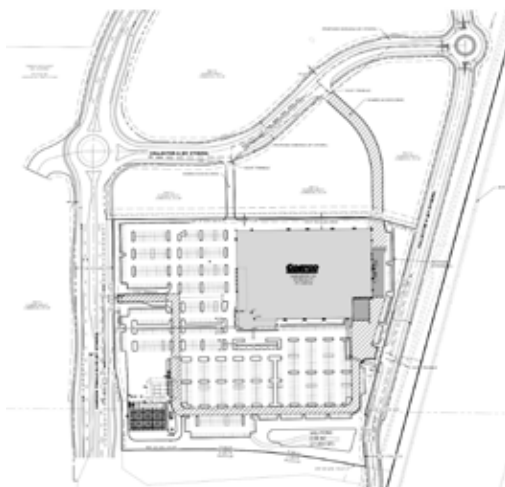
development along the west side frontage road are visible and will increase as the overpass gets underway.



Westside Development Partners has submitted their application for the proposed **COSTCO** to be located on the west side of I-25 just to the north of the overpass. The 18.4-acre property will have a 161,000 sq ft Costco retail warehouse and 16 fuel pump gas station. The site will accommodate parking for 899 vehicles, and I expect they will fill every one of those spots. Opening of the store

is planned to take place with the completion of the overpass (late 2025). You can get your membership now and practice shopping in the existing four nearby stores in Parker, Aurora, Lone Tree, and Colorado Springs.

This should alleviate some of the retail-oriented traffic on the north side of Castle Rock as the south side of Town starts to develop more retail around the Costco.

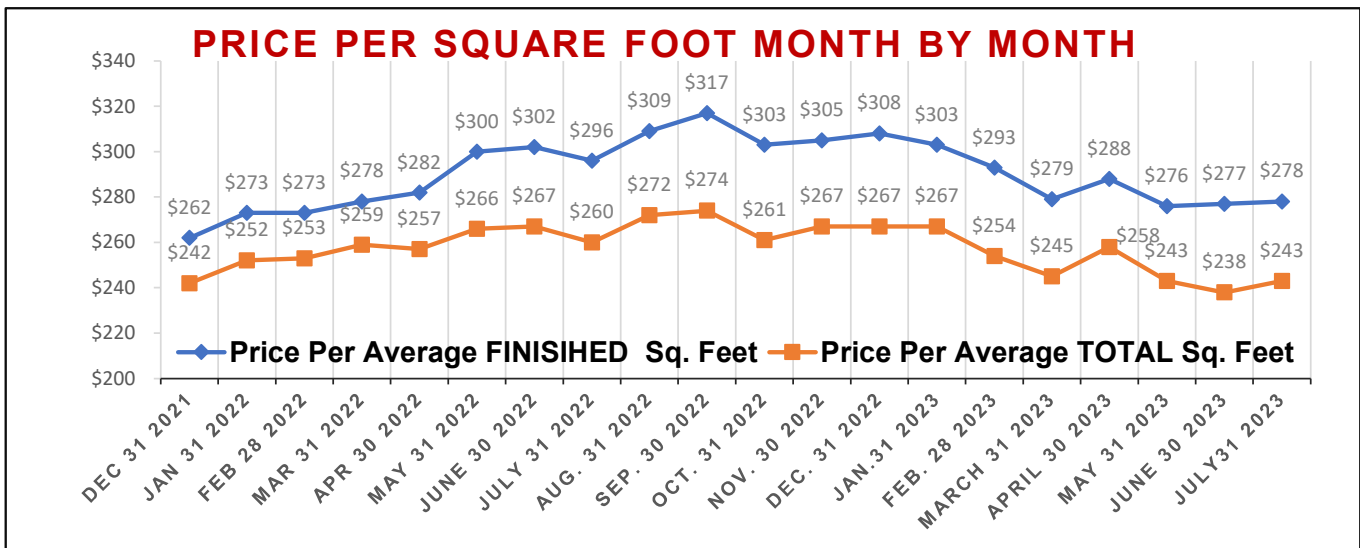
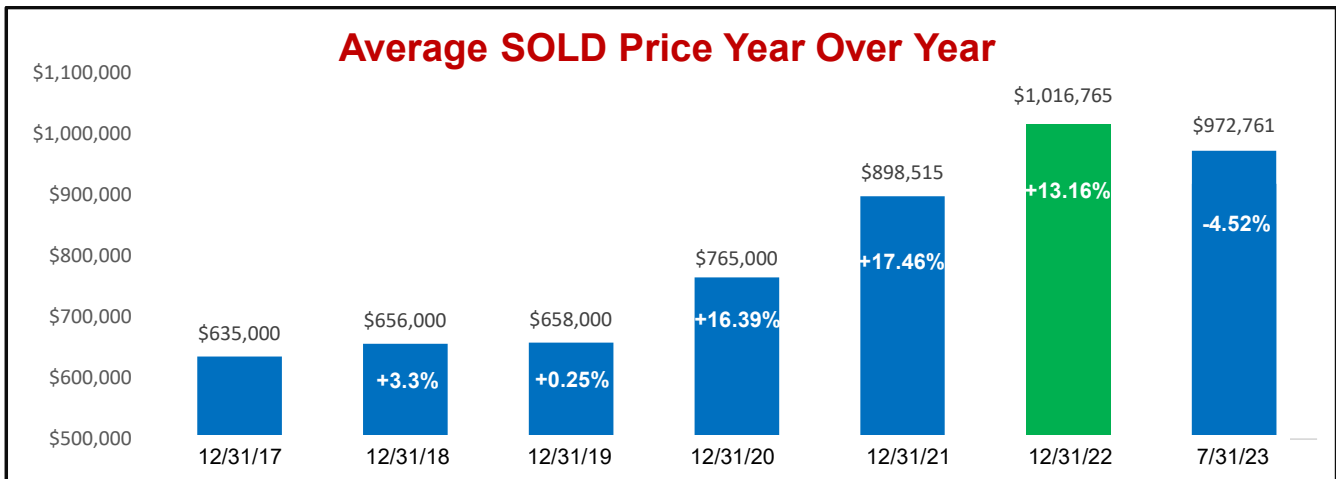




Larkspur Area Real Estate Stats – HOMES SOLD

Homes Currently For-Sale (8/21/2023) ---34 (\$749,900 to \$2,000,000) --- Median \$1,072,450
Average Days on Market --- 59

Homes Currently “Under Contract” --- 13 (\$750,000 to \$1,895,000) --- Median \$1,099,900
Average Days on Market --- 39



---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.

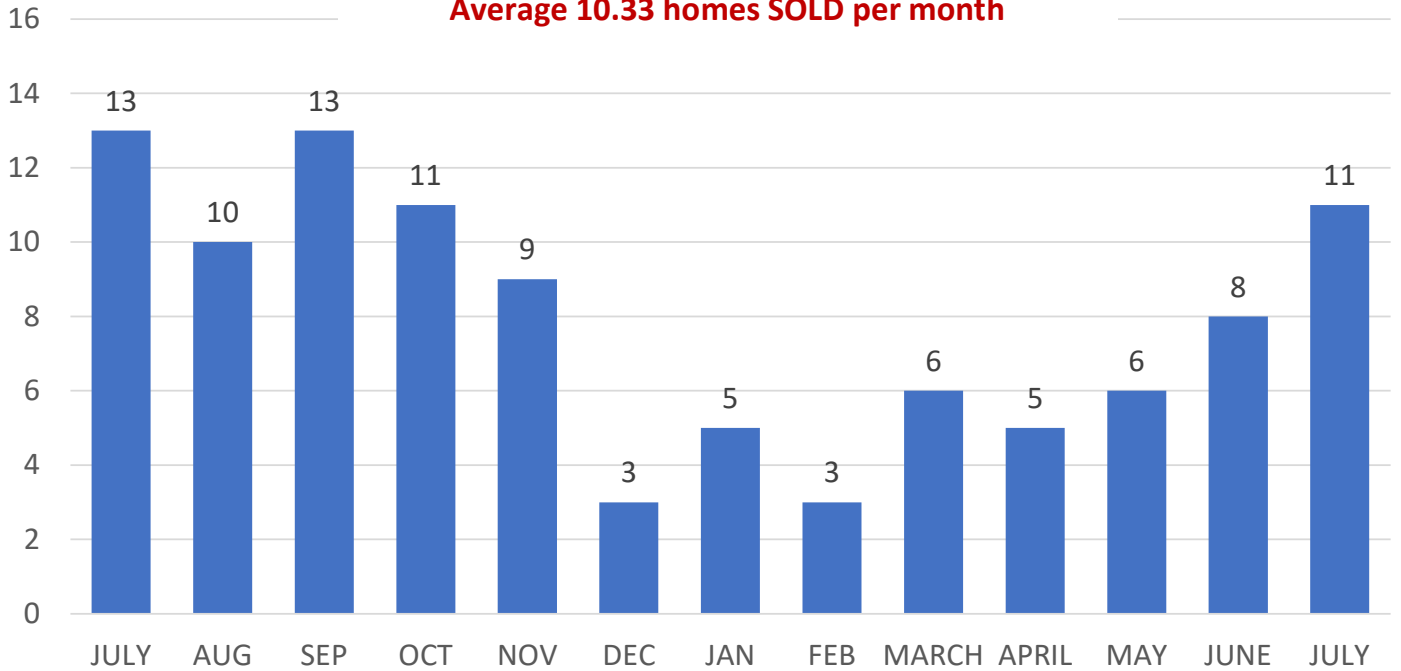
---The above information has been researched from the Metro Denver MLS System (www.REcolorado.com) by **Dave Gardner of Results Realty of Colorado**, located in the Town of Larkspur, CO. It is believed to be accurate but is NOT guaranteed. Every property will have unique factors affecting value such as location, condition, acreage, quality, size, age, upgrades and features. A thorough in-person 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.



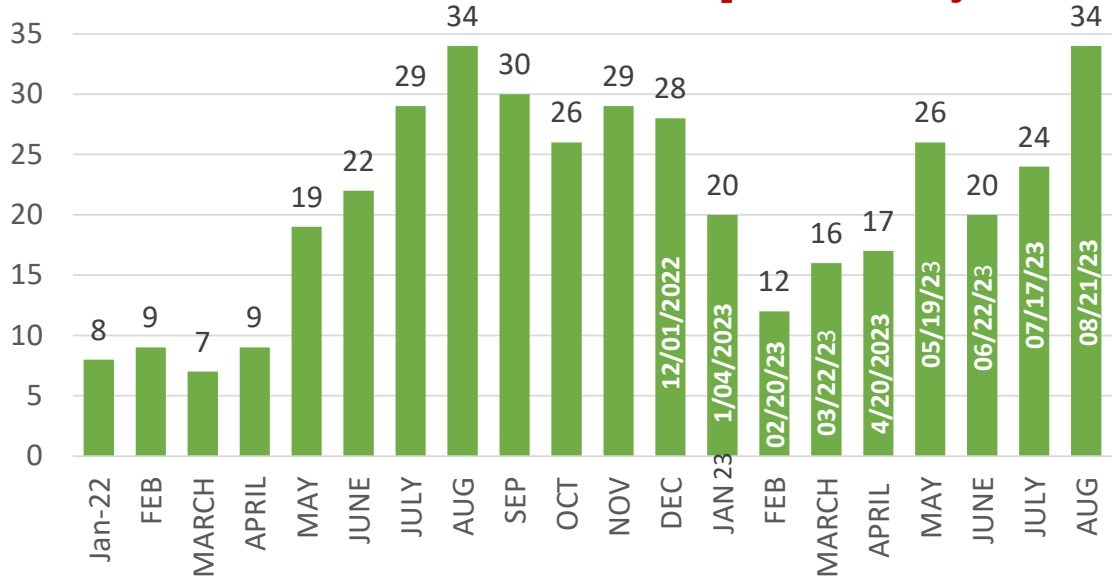
Larkspur Real Estate Stats

2022/2023 Homes SOLD in Larkspur Month by Month

Average 10.33 homes SOLD per month



2022/2023 Homes FOR SALE in Larkspur Month by Month



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DavesResultsTeam@yahoo.com

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](#)

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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

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