



Larkspur

Sentinel

November 2023

Serving Perry Park, Larkspur,
and the surrounding community

. . .and then it snowed!!

Well, that was quite the snowstorm over the weekend, wasn't it! Hopefully everyone stayed safe, shoveled carefully, and enjoyed the beauty of the storm, even with its unexpected arrival!

A few things to cover this month. First, a very special thank you to Marla Leggette as this is gardening article will be the last in her 16 months of contributions. Her advice and information have always been very interesting and she provided useful tips for maintaining our outdoor spaces and succeeding with flowers and vegetables. Great Job, Marla! Thank you!

I am excited to announce that we have a new leadership team for the Larkspur Sentinel. I am grateful to those who stepped forward, and others who offered to help in various ways to get this publication out to all of you! I'll introduce you to the team next month!

Thanksgiving is this month, and it provides a great reminder to be grateful for family, friends, health, and living in this beautiful area. I know it's trite, but having an "attitude of gratitude" can truly make a difference. As the editor of the Sentinel, I certainly am grateful for our community, our writers who are all volunteer, our advertisers who continue to be generous, and the readers who express their concerns and appreciation in thoughtful ways. You are why we keep producing this communication!

Enjoy your Thanksgiving, and, of course, please be kind!

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 | eowens@remax.net | www.ElizabethOwens.net



4850 CROW DRIVE | 2 ACRES IN PERRY PARK! | OFFERED AT \$1,149,500



8154 INCA ROAD | PERRY PARK | OFFERED AT \$1,099,900



1845 CINNAMON ROAD | 2.3 ACRES IN STERLING POINTE | OFFERED AT \$1,150,000



4721 RED ROCK DRIVE | PERRY PARK | JUST LISTED | OFFERED AT \$815,000



4998 CHIPPEWA DRIVE | PERRY PARK | SOLD! | \$815,000



4288 DELAWARE DRIVE | PERRY PARK | UNDER CONTRACT | \$1,160,000

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?

Nov 2 - Larkspur Town Council Meeting - 6:00-8:30 pm**

Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 - Food Trucks, 3:00-6:00 pm

Nov 7 - ELECTION DAY - PLEASE VOTE!

Nov 13 - Help & Hope Free Food Market - 11:00 am - noon, Log Cabins

Nov 16 - Larkspur Town Council Meeting - 6:00-8:30 pm**

Nov 8 & Nov 22 - 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!

Nov 9 - 6 pm - Larkspur Fire District Board of Directors meeting at Larkspur Fire Station 161.

Nov 9 - 6 pm - Perry Park Metro District Board Meeting at Perry Park Country Club and via Zoom.

Oct 16, 23, 30 - Food Trucks*

*Check Larkspur Neighbor to Neighbor Facebook page for confirmation of date and featured food trucks.

**For full list of Larkspur Town meetings, please click [here](#) to see the newsletter with calendar items.





FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

by Wayne Moore, Member-Board of Directors

September 2023 Calls by Incident Type - Total Calls: 83

- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident = 44 (53.01%)
 - Emergency Medical Service Incidents = 29 (65.91%)
 - Motor Vehicle accident with injuries = 7 (15.91%)
 - Motor Vehicle accident with no injuries = 7 (15.91%)
 - Emergency Medical Service Incident, Other = 1 (2.27%)
- Good Intent Call = 19 (22.89%)
 - Dispatched & Canceled enroute = 13 (68.42%)
 - Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke = 5 (26.32%)
 - Good Intent Call, other = 1 (5.26%)
 - Service Call = 11 (13.25%)
 - Service Call, other = 6 (54.55%)
- Person in Distress = 2 (18.18%)
- Public Service Assistance = 2 (18.18%)
- Unauthorized Burning = 1 (9.09%)
- False Alarm = 5 (6.03%)
 - System or Detector Malfunction = 1 (100%)
- Fire = 4 (4.82%)
 - Structure Fire = 2 (50%) (1 = Building Fire, 1 = Trash Contained)
 - Mobile Property Vehicle Fire = 2 (50%)

The LFPD Board of Directors approved and adopted Resolution No. 2023-005 on October 17th, 2023 in opposition to the statewide proposal, Proposition HH. In summary, the Board of Directors concludes that Proposition HH diminishes the ability of LFPD to provide the vital services, facilities and staffing that the public needs, expects, and demands; and, therefore, the Board strongly urges a NO vote on Proposition HH at the statewide election on November 7, 2023.

Greetings from Patti Nygaard

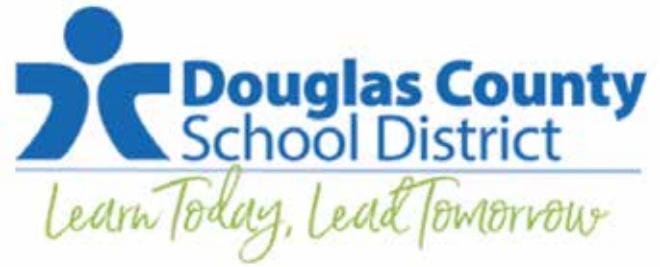
I am the new Administrative Manager for the Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD). Our family moved to Parker and fell in love with Colorado shortly after my husband of 34 years retired from the Air Force in 2011. We have 2 children: our daughter is in the Air Force, stationed in California and is applying to Physician's Assistant school. Our son graduated from CU Boulder last spring is attending the Skaggs School of Pharmacy. We're a family of service and are dedicated to helping others when and where we can.

I so appreciate everyone at the LFPD, the Board and Auxiliary Members, our Chief, Officers, Firefighters and Paramedics on each shift all have reached out, made me feel so welcome, embracing me as part of the team...it means so much to me and I appreciate it more than I can express! Additionally, the folks within the Larkspur community that I've had the pleasure of meeting have been absolutely wonderful, so friendly and so genuinely supportive; I look forward to meeting many more and becoming more familiar with the great people of Larkspur.

I truly respect those who choose to serve their community as first responders. It is a unique calling and I am honored to work with and support these folks; it is certainly a privilege to observe all they do for the people of our community. Again, thank you for the great welcome and I look forward to meeting more of you in the days and months to come.



CRPD, DCSD expand SRO-therapy dog program with third team



Good things come in threes! The Castle Rock Police Department and Douglas County School District's School Resource Officer and therapy dog program continues to grow. SRO Dave Knight and Ru, a 2-year-old Husky-Malamute mix, are now serving the Castle Rock Middle School community.

"Our Police Therapy Dog program has truly been transformative for our community," said Police Chief Jack Cauley. "The reach of these police therapy dogs extends beyond our middle and high schools to serve students and staff across Castle Rock. We're so proud of the work they're doing every day."

Officer Knight rescued Ru from a local shelter in February 2022. After realizing his potential and getting him certified as a therapy dog, he donated Ru to the Castle Rock Police Department so he could be assigned to work in school settings as a police therapy dog. Officer Knight and Ru currently hold several credentials including a Multi Discipline Therapy K-9 certification through the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Paws & Stripes College in Florida. Additionally, this duo earned American Kennel Club Therapy Dog Novice, Therapy Dog and Therapy Dog Advanced titles and passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen Basic, Urban and Advanced programs.

"I, myself, was a student at Castle Rock Middle School back in the day and I truly want the best for this community," said Officer Knight. "Ru has made an immediate difference, and his presence in our building has been enormous. Whether that's been helping individuals emotionally regulate, alleviating fears during lockdown drills or assisting in our Affective Needs classrooms, you see the impact during every interaction."

The police therapy dog teams are aware some may have allergies or fears, and are mindful of such conditions when allowing interactions with Ru. They will work with students, parents and the school district to mitigate any unwanted exposure.

In April 2021, CRPD and DCSD became the first in the state to permanently pair a school resource officer with a certified therapy dog when SRO Scott Gillespie introduced police therapy dog Buttercup to the Castle View High School community. Police therapy dog Rocket joined SRO Luke Godfrey at Mesa Middle School in 2022.

"We hope to set a trend on how effective Police Therapy Dog programs can be in schools," said Officer Knight. "Hopefully this is something we start to see more of across the state and country."





Perry Park Metropolitan District

The Special District For Perry Park Ranch

by Steve Ostrowski, Secretary, PPMD Board of Directors

Hello Perry Park!

This month, we will be reviewing and planning the 2024 budget for our metro district. In 2024, taxing districts such as the Perry Park Metropolitan District (PPMD) are expected to receive significantly more revenue from you as taxpayers, unless legislation changes or districts vote to reduce their tax rates. Recently, the PPMD has announced that it is in opposition to Proposition HH. The PPMD board suggests you vote NO on Proposition HH as an inadequate solution to the issue.

As we plan the budget, we are also sending out another resident survey, perhaps by the time you read this article. Look for the survey information in one of our communications channels and please submit your responses to help inform our planning process.

Updates on 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 help in emergencies. The industry is slowing its expansion and setting up towers will be a long-term initiative. If you would like to help this initiative, send us letters of support to include with planning packages.
- 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.

- Wauconda Park master plan - we are beginning to create a conceptual master plan for Wauconda Park, which we feel is an underutilized resource in our community.
- Gilloon Pond improvements - we are considering adding gravel to the walkway that has been cleared around the pond.
- Committees - we always need volunteers to improve our community. Committees include: Independence Day Planning, Firewise, Entry Design, and a Parks and Open Space. 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 November board meeting is scheduled for Thursday – November 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. 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 to see you there.

Follow us on: <https://www.facebook.com/perryparkmetro> & <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!

**1851 Gore Drive
 Sterling Pointe, Larkspur
 \$1,195,000**

**4 Bedroom/4 Bathrooms
 2.30 Wooded Acres**



This stunning 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom home features the rare combination of an extremely private 2.3 acre wooded lot along with stunning views of the front range while being surrounded by towering pines. The entire home has been completely renovated with top of the line light fixtures, slab granite countertops, refinished solid hickory cabinets with an espresso finish and a new composite deck and patio. Enjoy a relaxing evening in this mountain paradise on the expansive decks and patios.



Just Sold!
**1449 Gore Drive
 Sage Port, Larkspur
 \$1,132,500**



For Sale!
596 Independence Drive, Larkspur ~ \$1,549,000

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.

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



"For me, yesterday was the most fun (and most emotional) closing in our years of owning homes! This is a hard move for us is many ways...living in Perry Park has been more of a life experience than just a home...so it's sad but we are ready for our condo

on the lakeshore as our new home. You being a part of the closing as a broker for both of us was seamless and low-key - as was the whole process from contract until closing. We greatly appreciate everything! I also know that we were both stressing throughout and you were always wonderful about calming and reassuring me."

Feedback from Scott and Cindy Wood

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

The Colorado River

by *Brian Arthurs, Treasurer, Water District*



“Many a time have I merely closed my eyes at the end of yet another troublesome day and soaked my bruised psyche in wild water, rivers remembered and rivers imagined. Rivers course through my dreams, rivers cold and fast, rivers well-known and rivers nameless, rivers that seem like ribbons of blue water twisting through wide valleys, narrow rivers folded in layers of darkening shadows, rivers that have eroded down deep into a mountain’s belly, sculpted the land. Peeled back the planet’s history exposing the texture of time itself.”

- *Harry Middleton* –

Facts About the Colorado River:

- The Colorado River is 1,450 miles long.
- Based on length, the Colorado river is the 46th longest river in the world.
- The average depth of the river is 20 feet. While in some places it gets as deep as one hundred feet.
- The river flows through seven U.S. states (including, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California) and two Mexican states.
- Now, due to significant damming as well as lower water levels caused by drought, the river no longer reaches the Sea of Cortez.
- In total, there are 15 dams on the Colorado River. Six are specifically designed for irrigation and the other nine dams generate just under 9 million kilowatt-hours of power every year.
- The Hoover Dam is the best known and largest of the dams on the Colorado River.
- The very first dam, completed in 1905, was the Laguna Diversion Dam, built along the Arizona and Colorado border.
- The last Colorado River dam is the Windy Gap Dam in Colorado, completed in 1970.
- The river was known as the Red River due to the particles of silt carried in its waters. After the Glen Canyon Dam was built in 1963, the colored silt was trapped behind the dam and the river stopped looking red.
- The water of the river used to reach 80 degrees, but due to the dams it is now staying at about 42 degrees.
- The Colorado River is home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the Grand Canyon.
- There are eleven U.S. national parks along the Colorado River.
- The biggest sport along the Colorado River is whitewater rafting.
- The river was nicknamed the River of Law because of all the legal disputes that have involved the flow of the river and its water over the years.

The Colorado River is drying up. This is the most important fact to know.

The Colorado River Basin is facing a water crisis. The river, which has enabled the Southwest’s rapid growth and agriculture, is shrinking. Flows have declined by about 20% in the past two decades. The Bureau of Reclamation has reduced water allocations and declared a shortage for next year. The seven basin states, tribes, and the federal government are negotiating further cuts, while cities and states are scrambling to find new water supplies.

New dams and reservoirs are being built in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico), with more planned. These projects could divert the amount of water Nevada

In Memoriam. . .

Joe Piscitella

August 7, 1967 - September 19, 2023

Joe Piscitella, Perry Park resident, passed away suddenly on September 19, 2023 at the age of 56. He was born in Troy, New York on August 7, 1967 to the late Joseph J. Piscitella and Anne Ramroth Smith.

Joe graduated from Lansingburgh High School in 1985 and Siena College in 1989 with his Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. Shortly after graduating from college he moved to Tennessee where he worked for Dollar General setting up their computer inventory system. He then moved to Arizona to work for Intel before settling in Colorado. Joe was a database administrator for many years, lastly working for Netskope.

Joe had a passion for soccer and coached/mentored many young children over the years,



forming strong bonds and leaving a positive impact on all of them. Joe enjoyed the outdoors, hiking with his sons and his long walks with his dogs Maverick and Mackinac. They had hiked many of the 14'ers in Colorado as well as the Grand Canyon.

Joe is survived by his wife Amy Baron Piscitella, his daughter Sarah Parker (Geordie), his sons: Joseph Z, Antonino, Gianni, Tomassino and Niccolo; his extended family and many friends. A celebration of Joe's life was held in October.

Gratitude from Amy: "The community has been overwhelming gracious and supportive and I can't thank everyone enough for the outpouring of love."



Colorado River continued from previous page

is allocated from the river each year. Critics of these new dams and reservoirs argue that it is no longer sustainable to divert more water from the river. Supporters argue that the projects are necessary to ensure adequate water supplies in the Upper Basin, which currently has little storage capacity for times of drought.

On October 19, 2023, the next steps in the formal process to develop new guidelines and strategies for protecting the Colorado River system and strengthening water security in the West were announced. The new guidelines will replace the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, which expire at the end of 2026, and will be implemented in 2027.

Only time will tell whether it is too late to save the Colorado River. But one thing is for sure: we need to act now to protect the river's future.

The Perry Park Water and Sanitation District held its regular board meeting on October 18, 2023. Further information is available on the district website, www.ppwsd.org.

In Memoriam. . .

Carolyn Zwahlen

April 7, 1931 - August 16, 2023

Carolyn Claire McKain Zwahlen, former Perry Park resident, a retired teacher and fabric artist who loved to explore the Colorado mountains, died on August 16 after a short illness. She was 92.

A dedicated hiker, bird-watcher, gardener, weaver and knitter, Zwahlen was a long-time resident of Perry Park, with her husband, Jack (b. 1927, d. 2011.) They embraced the beauty of Colorado and the Southwest after moving to the state with their young family in 1968.

In the late 1980's they moved to Perry Park, first on Acoma Drive, then Juniper Court in the Echo Village neighborhood before settling around the corner on Sentinel Rock Terrace. They loved to host family for Perry Park's annual fireworks show over the Lake Wauconda. Carolyn loved to cross-country ski on the Big D meadow. They took picnic dinners, and their golden retrievers, to the park's red rocks and cut their Christmas trees nearby. They enjoyed the wildlife that frequented the foothills.

Carolyn grew up in Parkersburg, WV, a small town on the Ohio River, learning to play the piano, a life-long pleasure, and playing on her aunt's farm. She attended Ohio State University, where she met Jack, a geology major, and they were wed in her hometown in 1952. They moved with her husband, a new lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, to Texas, then on to Pittsburgh for Jack's work as an oil geologist. Five years later, they moved to the Denver area where they both fell in love with the wide, open spaces, majestic mountains and brilliant blue skies of the Centennial state.



Zwahlen went back to college and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Denver's Colorado Women's College in 1976. She was a long-time substitute teacher for the Cherry Creek School District. She loved classical music (but not the violins!) and jazz, especially piano. After she retired, Zwahlen sold her



hand-knit scarves under her DelicKnit label, which was featured in a Colorado Biz magazine article.

Zwahlen was preceded in death by her husband and her brother David.

She is survived by her children Cyndia Zwahlen (Lance Terry), Lissa Zwahlen Thoeny (Bret) and Heidi Spurgin (Andrew) as well as her three beloved grandsons, Maxwell and Harris Thoeny and Jack Zwahlen Terry and her step-brother, Walter P. McKain Jr. (Connie) and 10 nieces and nephews.

She will be buried next to her husband in the rustic Bear Cañon Cemetery in the Plum Creek Valley they both loved so well. Their tombstone is engraved "Take me home, country roads," combining their love for Colorado and West Virginia. Visit monarchsociety.com for photos, details, condolences.



DAVE GARDNER'S *Results* Team



Office located on the Main Street of Larkspur



FOR SALE
\$999,995



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
\$974,900



1022 Cochetopa Dr - Sage Port

This custom 2-Story Home is nestled onto a pristine 0.76-acre homesite that backs to 2.68-Acres of Forested Open-Space with Soaring Ponderosa Pines. The 3 Bedrooms ALL have a private full bath Ensuite. This home has been LOVED!

FOR SALE
\$399,900



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!

SOLD
\$974,900



6375 Pike Circle - Perry Park

Custom Mountain-Contemporary Home on one of Perry Park's most breathtaking sites. Backs AND fronts to Open Space. Check out the backyard between the soaring red rock monoliths located ON-SITE just like Garden of the Gods.

FOR SALE
\$299,000



691 Poncho Rd. - Sage Port

Gorgeous "Ready-To-Build" 1-Acre lot in Sage Port only 1-mile from the Bear Dance Golf Course. Enjoy Soaring Ponderosa Pines and gently sloping/rolling South-Facing topography. Water & Sewer tap fees have been pre-paid. \$60K LID Assessment has been PAID IN FULL!

FOR SALE
\$249,900



8135 Bannock Dr. - Perry Park

1-Acre "Ready-To-Build" LOT in the Colorado Pine Forest of Perry Park. New County-Maintained and plowed PAVED road with concrete curb and gutter. Enjoy Mountain Views to the South at the back of the lot. This lot backs to OPEN SPACE.



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



November Garden Tasks

by Marla Leggette

Even though we are still having varying degrees of warm temperatures and precipitation in our area of Colorado, most garden chores should be done by now. Your fall leaves are either protecting your plants and are being used as mulch, or you've just let them be until you can mow them into your lawn in the spring or turn them over into your garden beds. Leaves will also create a hiding place and warmth for birds, squirrels, and the good insects.



Any trees you planted this fall should be watered whenever possible. If there is no precipitation for a week or ten days, it's a good idea to drag out the hose and give them a good drink. The same goes for your fall bulbs or any garlic you may have planted in October.

You've already deadheaded the seed heads of the plants you don't want to spread and taken some seeds off that you may winter sow, or plant in the spring. You've also cut your irises down to about 6 inches and divided and separated them if they need it.



A good task for these colder months is to remember to take care of your



tools. Make sure all hand tools are cleaned and oiled for the next season. You may store shovels and rakes above the floor so they don't rust or add dull edges. Remove any soil from the tools that has caked on and apply linseed oil to the wood handles. Garden centers often mark down some of their tools at the end of the season, which make great gifts to friends or ourselves!

In order to keep the 'green' going, fall and winter is a great time to re-visit your houseplants that have been neglected. Re-potting, fertilizing, trimming are all good activities to keep your mind on plants and put some extra oxygen into your air! There is a great Facebook page called "The Plant Ladies of Castle Rock". Readers can ask questions and an abundance of good advice is offered. Sometimes there are plants for sale or you may be able to pick up a "start" for free.

Thanksgiving and Christmas cactuses will be for sale soon, as well as Amaryllis bulbs and Poinsettias. If you have an Amaryllis bulb hiding out in our garage like I do, you may want bring it inside and start to water it. Varieties vary but it could take up to 6 weeks for the stalk to grow and flower. It's also nice to have blooms after the first of the year, when nothing else is adding any color.



This is my last article for the Larkspur Sentinel. Over the last 16 months, I've given you all the advice I have to give and I hope some of you learned a few things. It's time for you to have a new perspective.

Don't forget that the Douglas County Garden Club meets every first Tuesday of the month at the Castle Rock Library at 1:00PM. Guests are always welcome. Check our website at: www.douglascountygardenclub.com.

Be well.

Marla



LVFA

Larkspur Volunteer Fire Auxiliary

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Fundraiser

Raffle Tickets
\$5
Lots of great prizes!

11/6/23
5-7:30P



\$14 ADULTS
\$5 KIDS
(12 & UNDER)

**INCLUDES
SPAGHETTI, SALAD,
BREAD & DESSERT**

Hosted by...

Spur
of the Moment

8885 Spruce Mountain Rd
Larkspur, CO 80118

The Season for Thankfulness

by Amy Pfister, Community Engagement Coordinator, ARDC



Here at Aging Resources of Douglas County, we are immensely grateful for the dedication and unwavering support of our wonderful Larkspur volunteers. Their heart for serving older adults within the community is truly remarkable. We want to express our sincere thanks to these individuals who bring sunshine into the lives of cherished senior residents in Douglas County.

ARDC volunteers go above and beyond to ensure the well-being and independence of the local seniors Aging Resources serves. Whether it's lending a listening ear, delivering meals, or providing companionship to those who are socially isolated, these remarkable humans consistently dedicate their time to care for their older neighbors in need.

Through their acts of kindness, volunteers not only brighten the lives of seniors, combatting the isolation and loneliness that many older Larkspur adults face, they also create a warm and welcoming environment for Aging Resources as an organization. One Aging Resources client commented, "Aging Resources has been a blessing for me since I lost my vision and can't see."

Another client offered, "My volunteer always comes with a smile and a hug! It means so much!"

Loneliness can be incredibly challenging for senior citizens, but Aging Resources volunteers provide the gift of companionship. By engaging in conversations, sharing stories, and participating in various activities, they ensure that no senior feels forgotten or isolated.

To our Aging Resources Larkspur volunteers, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your efforts, boundless compassion, and unwavering commitment make a significant difference in the lives of the senior citizens you serve. You are the heart and soul of our organization, and we are honored to work alongside you. Together, we are creating a world where cherished seniors are valued, supported, and loved. Thank you for being the catalysts of positive change in our community. We are THANKFUL for you!

If you are looking for a volunteer home or a local non-profit to support this season, please consider Aging Resources of Douglas County. The services we offer are free to older adults, but contributions are critical for us to operate and serve the growing needs and number of older adults in Douglas County. December 5th is Colorado Gives Day, a state-wide day of giving geared towards supporting Colorado-based non-profits. Through Colorado Gives Day you have the freedom to choose the causes that resonate with you and collaborate with the local nonprofits that are tirelessly working to make good things happen in Colorado. Donations made through Colorado Gives Day go directly to the non-profit(s) of your choosing, making an impact right where you live. One great feature of Colorado Gives Day is you can invite your friends and family to support your non-profit of choice by creating your own (free) giving page for the non-profit of your choice!

Whether it's signing up to volunteer or donating to a local charity, we can all be thankful to have the ability to impact someone's life in a positive and meaningful way and that is most definitely something to be thankful for!



www.GoARDC.org

www.coloradogives.org

Neighborhood Posers

Photos by Mike Riebau



It's time for winter pruning!

Did you know?

Some fruit trees like Crab Apples, Pear and Hawthorne can only be pruned in the winter due to the risk of bacterial diseases.



Keeping your trees healthy is tough, but we can help!

Get your free winter pruning estimate by emailing us at

knotheadtree@gmail.com

or calling us at

303-885-3800



Window Washing Screen Cleaning & Repair

Free Quotes!
(720)821-0588

Locally Owned and Operated



Barbara Braly: The Art of Aging Well

by Kat Valentine King

Barbara Braly has discovered the key to a long and healthy life. At 96, the still-vigorous Perry Park resident credits staying active, social, and creative for her longevity and wellbeing. She is well known in the area for her landscape paintings; Braly uses palette knives to create her art, a technique that lends the creations a vibrant, three-dimensional quality. "I enjoy being able to push the paint around with the knives," she explains. "It's just more fun to paint this way."

She also enjoys her independence. She recently returned from a road trip to Michigan -- a journey she makes each year, alone. She's been summering at her family cabin in the lake country there since 1937, and has no intention to change her routine anytime soon.

"I was born and raised in Michigan," she says. "My dad built the cabin when I was 10 years old." Braly's family still gathers there every summer, and though her son and grandchildren all live out of state, she faithfully returns to the Colorado home she built with her beloved late husband, Hal, back in 1980. "They're never going to dig me out of this house," she says, only half-jokingly. "I can feel Hal here."

Braly (pronounced "BRAH-lee") met her husband at UCLA where she received a degree in Physical Education. "He was a football player," she remembers. "And I knew right away he was the one I'd been looking for." Hal joined the Air Force and soon they were launched into the whirlwind world of military life.

"To be a military wife, you need to be made of pretty strong stuff," Braly recalls. "You need to take care of everything at home, be able to make friends fast, and always be ready to start all over when you get a transfer. Everything is so sped up, but it also really bonds you with people."

The self-sufficiency and social expertise she gained as an officer's wife has served Braly well over the years. She learned early on to get involved in activities and organizations, from her time in college as a sorority sister, to joining women's golf clubs, and becoming president of both an officer's wives club and the first female president of the local yacht club by her lake cabin in Michigan.

When Hal retired, the pair discovered Perry Park through word of mouth among the Air Force community. They both enjoyed the views, and the wildlife. "I remember watching Hal chase a bear off our deck," says Braly. "And then the mother bear and her cubs stuck around and we watched them tumble and play in the yard."

Though Hal passed away ten years ago, Braly still loves the house and the neighborhood. "The bears and the lions, they don't bother you," she says. "It's so private and secluded. I feel safe here."

Her admiration for beautiful scenery is evident in her landscape paintings. Braly's extensive art collection features many of her originals, and she finds inspiration everywhere around her. Her Colorado home is filled with scenes of evergreen trees, alpine streams and mountain vistas, while at her summer cabin in Michigan, she prefers beach, lake and boating themes.

During the holiday season, Braly also creates detailed miniature paintings, such as dainty 2" x 3" oils



continued on next page

Aging Well continued from previous page

of Christmas trees. Many of her friends and collectors buy multiples of these tiny treasures to create holiday vignettes. Locals can view and purchase Braly's oil paintings during the annual Holiday Bazaar at Perry Park Country Club, held this year on Sunday, December 3rd.

"I've been doing the art fair for probably 40 years," Braly says. "This is what keeps me busy."

Keeping busy is a theme that Braly returns to often in her conversations, and part of her recipe for a long and happy life. "People ask me what's my secret to aging well," she says. I tell them three things: good genes, good balance, and good friends." For Braly, this has proven to be a winning combination.



The annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 9a.m. to 4p.m. at the Perry Park Country Club, 7047 Perry Park Blvd, Larkspur CO 80118. The event is free and open to the public.

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.



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

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



**Perry Park Country Club
Christmas Bazaar
Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023**

Open to the public 9am-4pm

Beautiful unique gift ideas for the whole family!
Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa, or glass of wine as you
shop, as well as some Christmas snacks for sale too
Door Prizes every hour !

*Featuring
Local Artists,
Authors, Photographers,
and Crafters !*



*Join us for a
shopping extravaganza
at beautiful
Perry Park !*



*Something for everyone on
your shopping list !*

A Walk on the Wild Side...

by Susan Peters

**Settling in to the Colorado Winter. . .Kauai Happenings. .
.Short Takes!**



Still Time

Winter reality is setting in - week by week rapidly dropping temperatures with no shouts of snowfall so far. Wait for it... By now you've cleaned your bird houses and bird feeders, along with putting away the hummingbird feeders, right?

There are a few more things that could help the birds over winter whether or not you feed them. One is to build a brush pile in a discrete part of your property to offer songbirds shelter in extreme weather. And they LOVE LOVE LOVE these, joyously flitting in and out of them during the sunny days. The Audubon Society suggests, too, setting aside downed branches and tree trunks. Then use large logs as a foundation while heaping fallen and cut branches in successive layers.

Putting decals or other deterrents on windows that are subject to bird collisions is a worthwhile endeavor, both for your windows and the birds. My sole decal of a chow chow is not quite doing it, so off to get a large hawk decal. The website flap.org/residential.php offers many clever suggestions and illustrations of ways to manage the situation.

Speaking of, did you see the news item on nearly 1000 birds, most of them warblers, perishing in Chicago over one night in early October? It was caused by an abnormally large migration number, intense rains, and lights left on in office buildings where the birds are attracted to the lights and crash into the windows. An urgent message was put out to building owners and managers to turn off the lights during the migratory periods.



And again, don't forget that a heated bird bath will attract a plethora of birds for your entertainment and the birds' benefit.

Kauai Nature Observations

Our bi-annual trek to Kauai, conveniently when the frost on the pumpkin started, revealed in changes since our last trip. The Hawaiian cardinals, derived from the Northern cardinal, were prolific. They are smaller than their ancestors and friendlier.

The humpback whales are not due to return to Hawaiian waters until November, in order to mate and give birth to their calves. We have seen them many times on other trips, enjoying their magnificent breaches.

The ubiquitous chickens again surfaced everywhere. The roosters started crowing well before sunrise. One even crowed throughout the night. How rude! During hurricane Iniki in 1992, not only did trees get blown down, but also chicken coops. Hence 100s of chickens were inadvertently released to become free range chickens. I told one local that with the abundance of chickens, no one should starve. He quickly corrected me with the recipe for cooking these chickens:

Fill a large pot with water. Throw in the chicken and a lava rock. After three days of simmering, throw out the chicken and eat the lava rock. Ta da!



Merlin correctly identified them as jungle fowl, originating in Singapore, of all places. At dusk we marveled at the hundreds of Pink Lady parakeets

continued on next page

Wild Side continued from previous page

that settled into the palm trees, exchanging gossip about their day's activities until their voices gave out. I thank Merlin for this identification – they were too far away to make them out, and I did not know what they looked like anyway.



In the Allerton Botanical Garden, we had a Muscovy duck following us around looking for grub. Our guide accommodated her, along with a bevy, of what else?, chickens.

And we did see monk seals, although small in number now, (less than a few hundred.)



Beaches are cats' favorite litter boxes.

They carry the deadly parasitic disease *Toxoplasma gondii*, transmitted primarily through cat feces and carried to the ocean in polluted runoff and sewage. So, the Hawaiian legislature took on the issue of an exorbitant number of feral cats. The two solutions were to neuter the males (too expensive) or to cull them (too outrageous for many). So, they enacted a law to do a head count of all the feral cats by 2024. Good luck. There are zillions of them everywhere. How do they mark the ones already counted? How do they find them all? How do they tell a feral cat from a domestic one?

And I added to my collection of flattened fauna with a toad on a sidewalk. It is probably a baby cane toad, an invasive species brought in to rid the sugar cane fields of bugs. Another experiment gone wrong. I have a large flattened toad that I am using for a



bookmark in my copy of "Flattened Fauna."

Few people were in the water, as the sharks were in for turtle nesting season. A man's leg was severely bitten in Halalei Bay where previously a surfer's arm was bitten off when she was 15 years old.

Short Takes

November 1st in more easterly Larkspur usually marks the end of the bear foraging, as the bruins don their winter jams and now discuss rental terms for a cozy den to sleep off their newly acquired layer of fat – I wish it was that easy for homo sapiens. Folks living more up in the foothills will probably see them awake later, as that is where the prime bear real estate is at.

Once the fresh bear poop plops have ceased, bird feeders can be left out overnight and additional morsels introduced like suet cakes and seed blocks. You might want to try a suet cake first in a spot that will leave your deck intact should a bear still be waiting for manna from heaven. The ability of the suet cake to survive will prove that it is safe to leave out feeders.

And have you seen the winner of the Fat Bear Week competition in Katmai Alaska? Grazer, a brown sow (also known as a grizzly), took the prize. I was rooting for 747 with the wide body.



Then the opportunist raccoons will show up. And one has done just that – a young, good-looking chap who drives our dogs crazy. Great.



Have you heard about the giraffes born without spots? The first one was in a Tennessee zoo. Last month, another one was spotted in Namibia. My question is: when these giraffes (both females) have babies, how will their young fix the pattern, or lack there of in this case, to be able to

continued on next page

Wild Side continued from previous page

recognize their mom?

Also, a pattern-less giraffe in the wild is more of a target for predators like white lions, due to the loss of natural camouflage.

In Alaska, a mother bear and her cubs satisfied their sweet tooth by breaking into an open Krispy Kreme truck. The bears ate 20 packs of donut holes and six packs of three-pack chocolate doughnuts. I suspect they were vying for the Fat Bear Week title.

Hurricane Idalia dispersed many flamingos with a number of them ending up in Pennsylvania fields. A person photographing the birds noticed that a snapping turtle had aggressively grabbed onto one of the birds. The bird was able to be rescued from the jaws of the turtle, taken to a wildlife rehabilitation center, and treated. Fortunately, there were no broken bones. However, the flamingo will have a long rehabilitation as it needs continued wound treatments, antibiotics and monitoring, the rescuers said. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is hopeful the flamingo can eventually be reunited with its mate.

“When birds pair for life, they will do so until the mate is killed or goes missing for an extended period of time, and they will move on or try to find another mate,” an agent said. “We’re working as quickly as possible with the rehab, and doing

our best to get it fixed up and back out there. So hopefully, they’ll pair back up.”

Stay tuned for next month’s edition of the Sentinel. I will share Comedic Nature Photography 2023 winners. This is one of my favorites, just to give you a taste, courtesy of Bill Zolansky:



A very Happy Turkey Day for you and yours!

That’s all folks for this month. Gotta run – dang! A skunk just nailed my really dense dogs AGAIN! Other homes will smell of evergreen and holiday baking while ours will just have a lingering smell of stale SKUNK.

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



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 www.dcsheff.net to sign up.



WALTSWORDS

By Walt Korinke

Commercial Real Estate

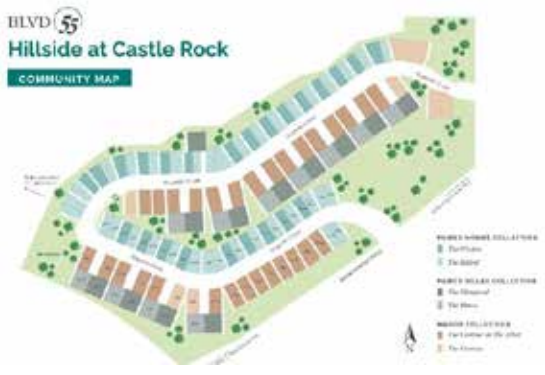
Nov 2023

CASTLE ROCK Castle Rock currently boasts four existing **55+** residential developments with 613 total units. Other than lack of age diversity, there do not appear to be many “cons” to considering this lifestyle. At the top of the “pros” list is low or no maintenance followed by safety and security, freedom to travel, social benefits with other similar aged retirees, quiet place to live, and more. The newest Castle Rock addition to the 55+ list is **Hillside-Blvd 55**.



Originally approved in 2019, the ground work finally started about a year ago for the development of Hillside, a four-phase age restricted

(+55) retirement community located on Wolfensberger just east of Coastline. The land has been contoured, paved streets recently installed, and the underground water, sewer, and utilities are in place. Construction is about to begin on the first two phases of the four phase 120-unit project on the 50.47-acre tract (5 acres donated to the Town). Some minor revisions to the remaining phase 3 & 4 (66 units) have been submitted for approval which will allow these phases to follow the development of the initial phases.



CONCEPT – A modern urban village for 55+ year old residents with low maintenance single and attached housing units centered around a Community Gathering Center serviced by interconnected pedestrian walkways & trails including a Castle Rock Overlook Trail, and casual outdoor amenities (cornhole, pickleball, and a multipurpose turf field).



The lot sizes vary between 3,000 and 5,000 sf. There are a variety of single, duplex and cluster home designs (50% are single story) ranging in size from 1,950 to 3,700 sf. Differing elevations enhance the overall appeal of the development. Finished basements are an option and there are 2 & 3 bay garages. Low maintenance and energy efficient floorplans, fully landscaped HOA maintained yards and snow removal add up to an easy style of living.





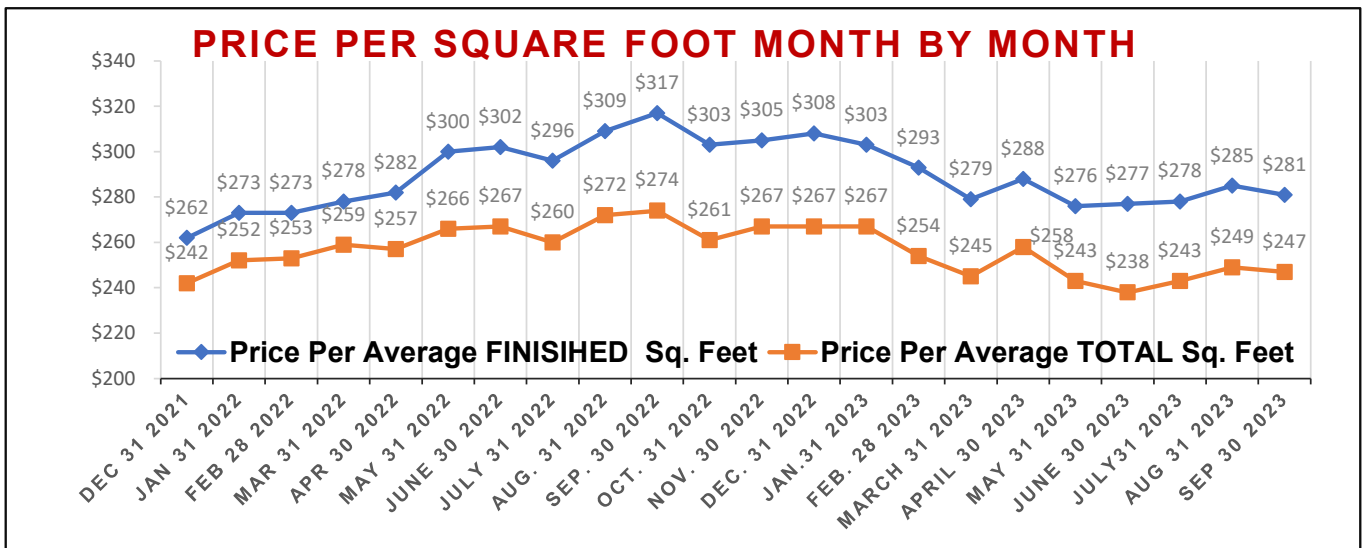
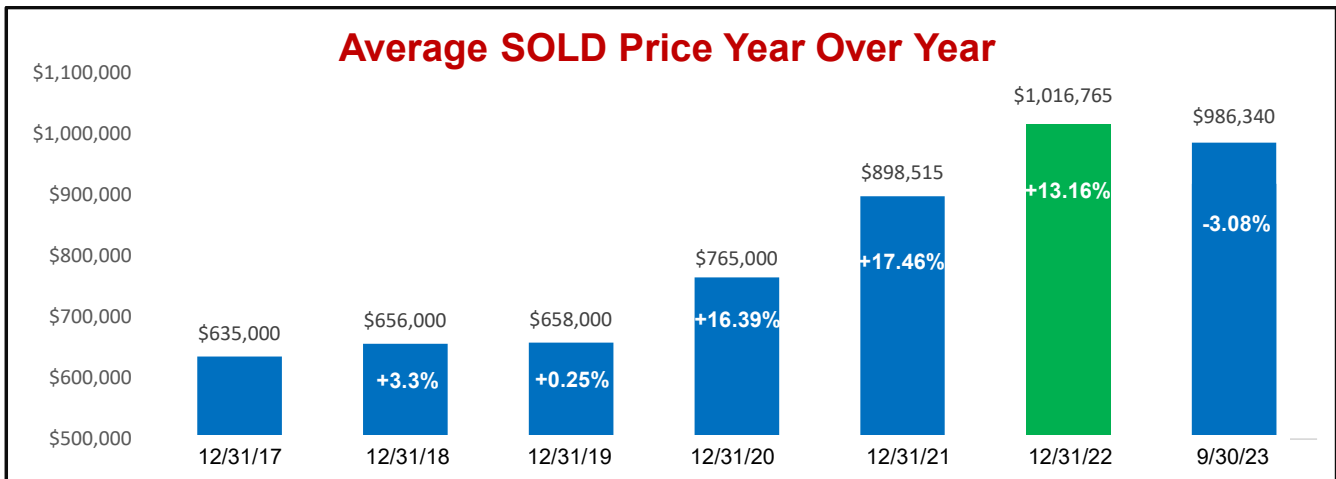
Larkspur Area Real Estate Stats – HOMES SOLD

Homes Currently For-Sale 10/20/2023) ---31 (\$510,000 to \$2,350,000) --- Median \$999,995

Average Days on Market --- 74

Homes Currently “Under Contract” --- 12 (\$934,000 to \$1,895,000) --- Median \$1,147,450

Average Days on Market --- 63



---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.

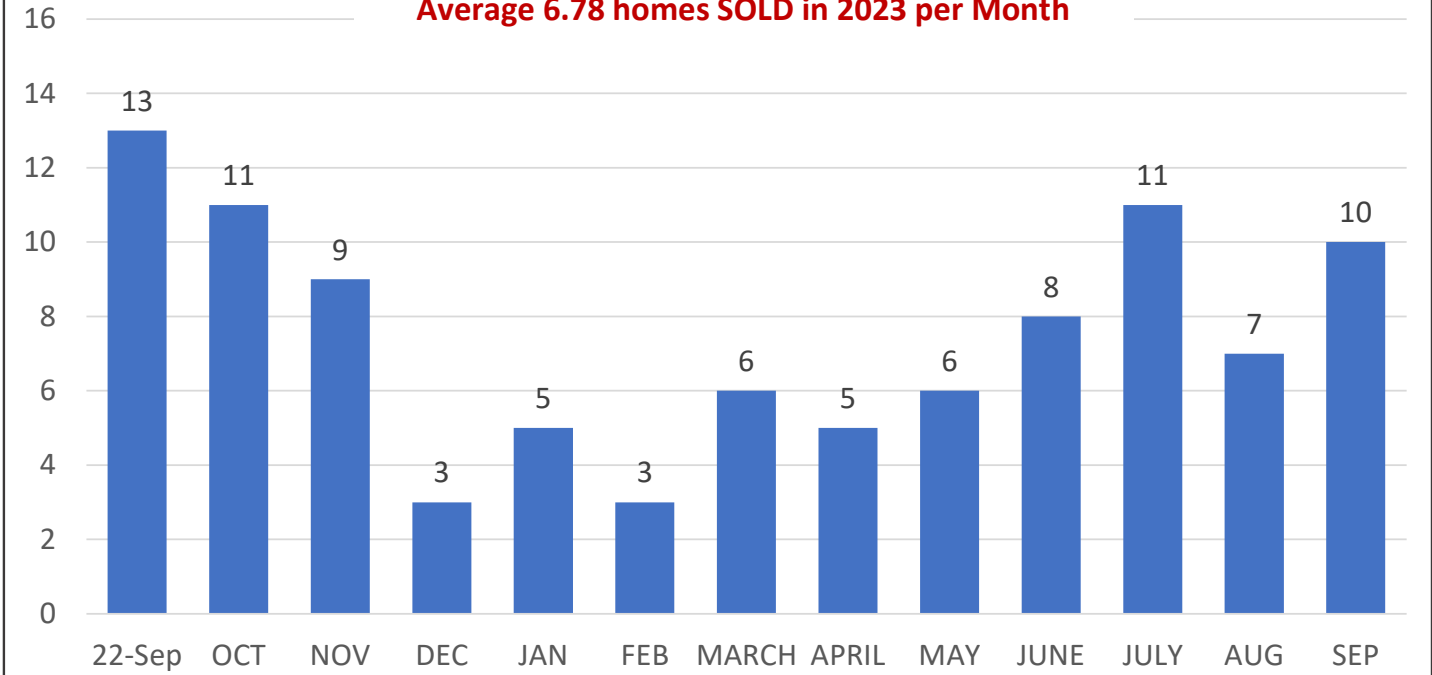
---The above information has been researched from the Metro Denver MLS System (www.REcolorado.com) by **Dave Gardner of Results Realty of Colorado**, located in the Town of Larkspur, CO. It is believed to be accurate but is NOT guaranteed. Every property will have unique factors affecting value such 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.



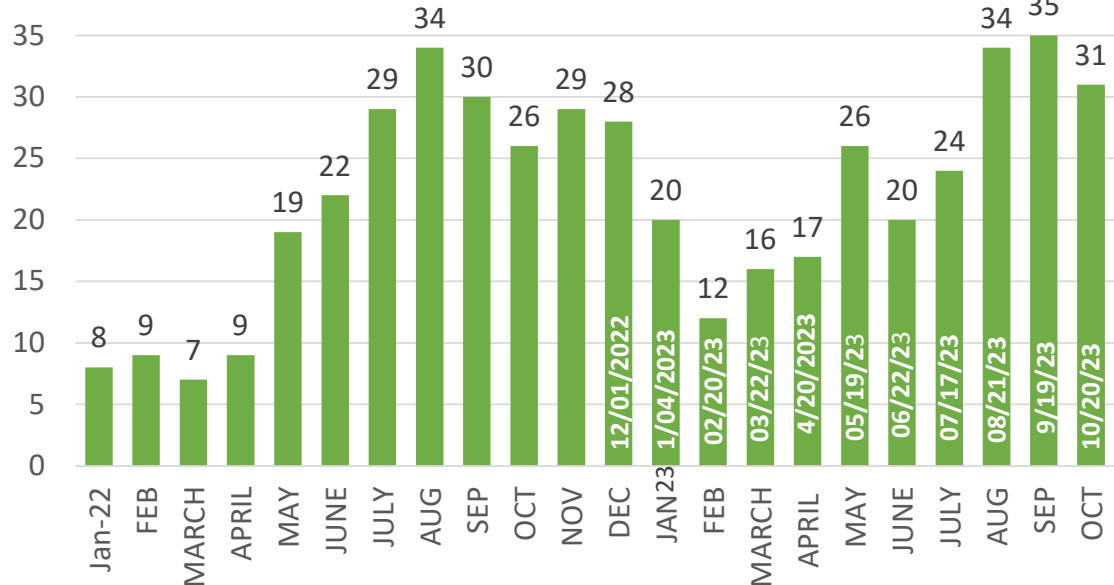
Larkspur Real Estate Stats

2022/2023 Homes SOLD in Larkspur Month by Month

Average 6.78 homes SOLD in 2023 per Month



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

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](#)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Call **Jack Hoyt 719-231-1719**.

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

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

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.

The opinions expressed in the Larkspur Sentinel are not necessarily the opinions of the staff or its advertisers.