



The Perry Park

Sentinel

APRIL 2019



2019 Easter Spring Fling and Egg Hunt

Join us on Saturday, April 13th at 10 a.m.

Location: Larkspur Park, 8850 Spruce Mountain Rd, Larkspur, CO 80118

In the event of bad weather, the hunt will be held the following

Saturday, April 20th.

Organized by the Larkspur Moms' Group

Funded by the people of the Larkspur area and The Larkspur Moms Group

We will have Vendors, food trucks, games, prizes, bounce houses, face painting and more!

Of course, there will be a special visit from the Easter Bunny and the local Fire Department!

The Larkspur Moms ran into a little funding problem early on, but Jenn Grubb, chairing the event, started fundraising immediately and decided to move the events to the park in Larkspur instead of holding it at the Big D. in Perry Park Ranch. This promises to be a new tradition for the families of Larkspur, not just an Easter Egg Hunt, but, in time, a spring festival with many activities.

But mostly it's an Easter Egg hunt! Bring your children of all ages, be on time (the first hunt will be for the 0-3 year-olds) and bring baskets, buckets etc. to hold the children's finds.



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE SEMINAR: April 6th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the New Covenant Church in Larkspur. Presenters will cover living with mountain lions and bears. There is no charge to attend but dona-

tions will be accepted to provide the speakers with a stipend for gas. One is coming from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the other from Boulder, Colorado. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers will also be in attendance to answer state questions and provide legal perspectives.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1546032885540932/>

PERRY PARK BOOK CLUB will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16 at the home of Cathy DeWald, 8358 Bannock Road in Perry Park Ranch. The book for discussion is *The Killer Next Door* by Alex Marwood, winner of the Macavity Award for Best Mystery Novel and nominated for the Anthony Award for Best Paperback Original. Stephen King describes this book as “scary as hell. Great characters.” The book for May is *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, a novel about an ordinary, middle-aged Englishman who sort of accidentally begins a six hundred mile walk to visit an old friend. Both books are Book Club Express, so copies are available. For additional information about the book club, see the website: http://applelane.com/Perry_Park_Book_Club.html.

FREE COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT: Saturday, April 20 from 12-2 p.m. Spring cleaning wouldn't be complete without decluttering your home and file cabinet. Dispose of your documents in a safe, secure and eco-friendly manner. Bring up to five boxes/bags of your personal sensitive documents (bank statements, tax returns, bills etc.) to the parking area at the front of Perry Park Ranch to be shredded on site! *Business/commercial and additional personal shredding will be welcomed from 1:30-2p as space allows. This event is sponsored by: Nicole Tahmindjis Equity Colorado Real Estate 720-244-1111 and Brian Craig Clark Nations Lending NMLS#1008468 720-244-1554.

DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE ALERT AND WARNING AND EVACUATION SEMINAR: April 16, 6-8, Commissioners' Hearing Room, 100 Third Street in Castle Rock. Free, but RSVP to 303-814-4356 or alwalton@dcsheriff.net.

THE LARKSPUR FREE LIBRARY, AKA BOOK EXCHANGE, is open on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Thursdays, 5 to 8 p.m. The Exchange is located at 9524 Spruce Mountain Road, in the old Town Hall Annex on the east side of the road. Plenty of parking in the back. The Book Exchange has over 7000 volumes of adult fiction (from lady's romances to classic literature) and nonfiction (categories such as history, biography, travel, crafts, and many more), and 600 volumes for children, young readers, and young adults. And all for free. That's right. An entire building of free books. No cards, no check out, no due dates, no overdue fines. Free. And no need to bring one to take as many as you can carry, because we have

plenty. In addition, the Book Exchange has a collection of rare and valuable volumes offered for sale; the perfect splurge for a book lover. All proceeds to benefit and support the Book Exchange. Come and check out what everyone is talking about. For more information, contact Cindy at 303-681-3046 or Krystine at 413-348-3579.

THE LARKSPUR BLANKET BRIGADE was very productive in 2018. We made 270 quilts and gave away 237 quilts. Our group makes quilts for anyone who needs a little bit of extra comfort or support. Our recipients are in hospitals, schools, hospice or single individuals who are experiencing crisis, trauma or loss. If you know of someone who could use some extra cheer, please contact us and we will be happy to get a quilt to you. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 10am at the Perry Park Country Club. You do not need any special sewing skills to join our group, just a desire to have fun and give back to the community. Our fabric is all donated, so if you are spring cleaning and would like to contribute fabric, batting or thread, please contact: Gwen Underwood at gwenpsur@icloud.com, 303-681-2125, or Cindy Hotaling at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com, 303-681-0374. Consider joining our group on this very rewarding journey. ~GSanders

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTIQUES FESTIVAL: Friday, April 26 through Sunday April 28., Douglas County Fairgrounds 500 Fairgrounds Drive in Castle Rock. Doors open at 10 a.m. Quality, authentic antique and vintage shopping, featuring dealers from 15 states! Tickets: Friday Early Buying: Adults: \$10 Saturday - Sunday: Adults: \$6, Children 9-12: \$3, Children 8 and Under: Free.

COLORADO AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION—CALF: check out the events and programs at the website: baby animal tours, kids' birthday parties, harvest festivals... Teach your kids about “the farm.” The Lowell Ranch is on the east feeder road south of Castle Rock. <https://www.thecalf.org/events-and-tours.html>.

MOUNTAIN LION IN PERRY PARK



Photo taken by Nickie Carner from her deck as a visitor strolled by. Beautiful animal, beautiful picture!



IN MEMORY: STEVE RAGO 1954-2019

Steve Rago was a very big man—in every way. When I first met Steve, he lived in Perry Park and collected used books for an animal shelter

program called Noah’s Ark. I gave him a lot of books—and he never arrived at my house without two or three dogs in the car.

At some point he found a dog wandering in the neighborhood and was very upset because the schedule for the *Sentinel* didn’t fit the timeline for advertising the dog! We told him just to post some signs, but that wasn’t enough for him. So Steve started the Larkspur Neighbor to Neighbor Facebook page, still a great way to find lost dogs.

Steve and Donna moved to Castle Rock and opened Rose’s Bella Cucina, named for his grandmother, Rose Rago from Genoa, Italy. In a 2015 interview with *The Castle Pines Connection*, Steve said, “My grandmother was a powerful influence in my life. She always made everything from scratch and when I was young I would help her cook.”

“The dishes on our menu are a mixture of foods from several different places all over Italy,” said Rago. “One of my favorites, though, is our Pasta Genoese. It’s something my grandmother made for us all the time. It has Genoa salami, spinach, garlic, red peppers with roma tomatoes, and herbs.” My favorite too, Steve.

From Rose’s Bella Cucina website: “He made friends wherever he went and you always knew he was in the building because of his signature laugh that shook the roof! Steve’s plan in opening Rose’s was to give the community a place where friends and family could enjoy some great food, live music, friendly service, and create wonderful memories!”

Steve and Donna sold Rose’s and moved back to New York—largely because of health issues—just days before he died.

Donations in his honor may be made to a cause Steve was passionate about:

Douglas County Veterans Monument Foundation, <https://www.devvmf.org/>

~KDale



LOCAL AUTHOR EXPLORES RETIREMENT OPTIONS

Area resident Jim Collier has published a new book with Amazon—available in hardback and on Kindle: *Retirement Is Recess for Grown-Ups: When the bell rings will you be ready?*



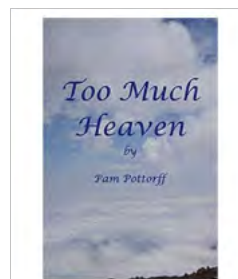
Retirement Is Recess for Grown-Ups combines the financial (science) and the lifestyle (art) planning segments of a comprehensive retirement financial plan into one “plain English” discussion appropriate for retirement hopefuls of any age. Important topics include how retirement has evolved over time, why traditional retirement income sources are becoming obsolete, the four main reasons people fail to achieve their retirement goals,

how to define potential *Retirement Income Security Killers* (RISKS) and rid them from your financial life, how to discover your true purpose in seven areas of your retirement lifestyle, and how to objectively determine if you need to engage a professional financial planner and how to find that person.

Bonus: A sixty-plus-page companion workbook--*The Retirement Homework Workbook*--is available for free exclusively to buyers of this book. As Jim says, a perfect gift for retired parents to give to their not so savvy children who will soon be facing retirement themselves!

FORMER LOCAL TEACHER-AUTHOR HAS BOOKS AVAILABLE

Locals may recall Larkspur Elementary’s beloved teacher Pam Pottorff who also has works published and available from www.scribd.com or <https://store.bookbaby.com>



Too Much Heaven and Food For Thought – A Book of Quotes are two books written by Pam Pottorff who taught at Larkspur Elementary School for some 20 years. *Too Much Heaven* “is a multi-generational saga of five close friends who face questions about life and mortality with humor, love, and intellect.” The overview for *Food for Thought* states, “From the innocence of Cookie Monster to the intelligence of Aristotle, this collection of over 1,900 quotes will tickle your funny bone and expand your wisdom. Enjoy the delicious “mind candy” in these pages which will make you laugh, touch your heart, challenge your thinking, make you wonder, and



Continued on page 4

AVAILABLE Continued from page 3

provide you with food for thought.”

Besides being a phenomenal elementary school teacher and mentor to many local families, website “BookBaby” answers “Who is Pam Pottorff? A child of God, a devoted wife, mother of two, lover of life, a thinker, a dreamer, a rainbow admirer, a teacher, a student, a cancer survivor, a think outside of the box type of gal, a happy soul who wishes everyone well, one who colors outside of the lines, an artist, a writer, a friend at all times.” These two great reads are available both as paperbacks and ebooks.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S CITIZENS ACADEMY TAKING APPLICATIONS

18th Judicial District Attorney George Brauchler is pleased to announce the dates for the 2019 Spring Citizens Academy. This free, seven-week course will be on consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 8 through June 19. Classes will be in the 18th Judicial District Attorney’s Douglas County office located at 4000 Justice Way in Castle Rock.

Each class will explore the role of various members of the office in different parts of the criminal justice system. The academy will give students an in-depth look at what happens on a case between the time of arrest and post-conviction.

Attendees will explore the different functions of the specialized units within the District Attorney’s Office, including but not limited to the Special Victims Unit, Economic Crimes Unit, Cold Case Unit, Crime Scene Investigations, County Court and Juvenile Justice. Students also will have the chance to learn the intricacies of a jury trial.



Citizens Academy participants during a session in the courthouse.

Space in the class is limited; preference will be given to applicants who live in the 18th Judicial District and are first-time attendees. Participants must be at least 18 years old, complete an application and pass a criminal background check to be considered. Members of the media and family of district employees are welcome to apply.

The application can be found here: [Application](#). **The deadline for applications is April 5, 2019.**

Submit the completed application in one of the following ways:

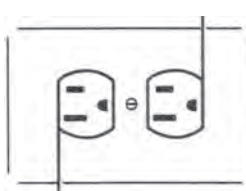
- Via U.S. mail: Barbara Martin-Worley, Office of the District Attorney – 18th Judicial District, 4000 Justice Way, Castle Rock CO 80109
- Via email: bmw@da18.state.co.us
- Via fax: 720 733-4689.

Questions? Email Barbara Martin-Worley or call her at 720 874-8487.



BURNING THE SLASH

In the midst of our March blizzard—while most of us were hunkered down in our warm houses, the Larkspur Fire Department was out in the cold and snow burning the slash the Metro District (Perry Park Ranch) collects in its yearly fire mitigation program every June and October. It’s then stored at the old quarry until the perfect day when wind and snow and cold all cooperate. Then, whoosh, bonfire time! There was certainly no lack of moisture on this March day!



electric

Pete Dunbar

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



SAT. 04 -13 -19

9 AM – 1 PM

LARKSPUR FIRE STATION 161

9414 South Spruce Mountain Rd.

Weather Backup Date 04-20-19

Check the LFPD Website for Wx Postponement Notice

<https://www.larkspurfire.org/>

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Topics

- Wildfire Season Potential
- Prepare Yourself
- Prepare Your Family
- Prepare Your House
- Prepare Your Property
- Prepare Your Community
- Wildfire!

It's Just the First 10 Minutes of Your Disaster!



**NEWS FROM THE LARKSPUR
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**
Cindy Applegate, Secretary-Board of Directors...

Call Review:

From February 1 through February 28, 2019, LFPD had a total of 59 calls compared to 50 calls for the same time frame in 2018; an increase of 9 calls (15.25 percent).



Fires: Total of one call: Vehicle fire, nothing found (in-district)

EMS: Total of 22 calls

Medicals: 16 (12 in-district, four mutual-aid)

Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injuries: six (five in-district, one mutual-aid)

Alarms: Total of two calls: CO detector malfunction (one in-district, one mutual-aid)

Other: Total of 34 calls (31 in-district, three mutual aid)

In the upcoming months the Larkspur Fire Protection District will be presenting two informational community meetings; the first will be the annual Wildfire Preparedness Workshop and the second will be the first annual State of the District presentation.

The annual Wildfire Preparedness Workshop will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at our main station in Larkspur. The Workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. The inclement weather backup date will be the following Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This year the topics include:

- Wildfire Season Potential
- Prepare Yourself, Prepare Your Family, Prepare Your House, Prepare Your Property, Prepare Your Community
- Wildfire! – It's Just the First 10 Minutes of Your Disaster.

There will be in-depth literature available on the topics of wildfire, wildfire mitigation, and wildfire preparedness distributed to attendees of the workshop.

The State of the District presentation will take place on Saturday, July 13, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at our main station in Larkspur. The purpose of this meeting will be to provide our citizens with relevant, accurate, and evidence-based information concerning the operations of the District. The topics will include:

- Social media posts: how accurate are they?
- The recently approved local ballot measure 6B
- The relationship of mill levies to your property taxes
- Budget overview
- Personnel staffing levels

Continued on page 8

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- Camera Sewer Line Inspections

- Troubleshooting & Maintenance
- Lift Station Pumps & Alarms
- Septic tank replacements

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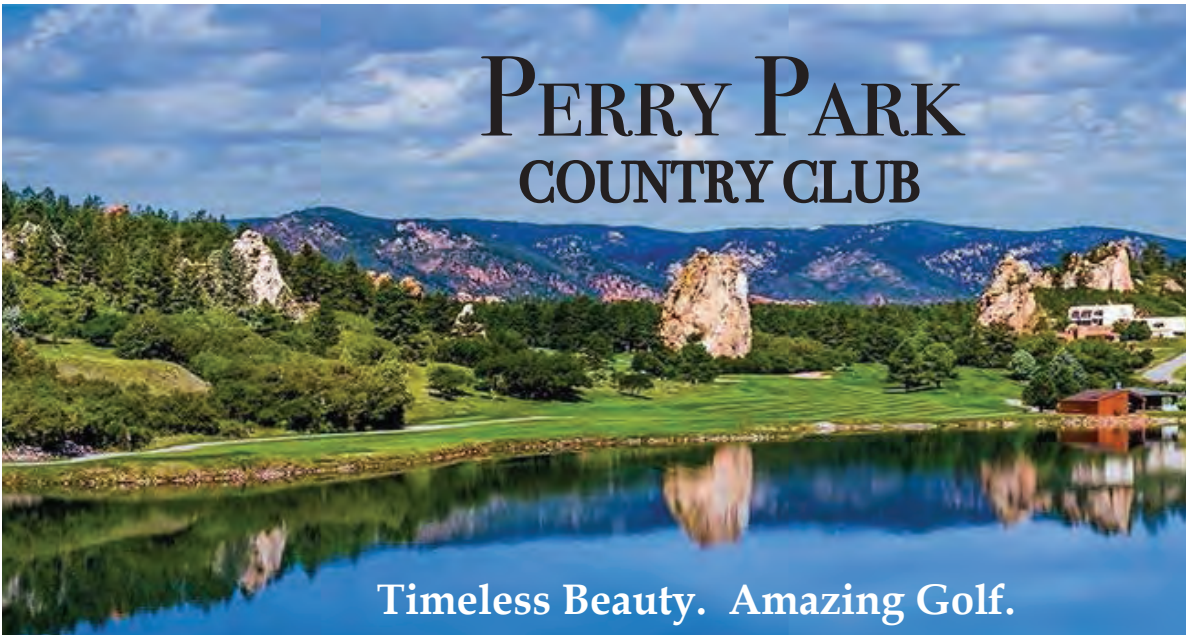


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PERRY PARK COUNTRY CLUB

Timeless Beauty. Amazing Golf.

You're invited to our Open House! Sunday, April 28 12-2pm. Social & Golf Membership Specials that day only.

Full Equity Golf Membership Special

One-Time Initiation Fee: \$2500 (Regularly \$4500)
Half dues until July 2019!

Twilight Golf Membership Special

One-Time Initiation Fee: \$1800 Great discount on monthly dues!
Twilight hours: June - August after 4:00pm September - May after 3:00 pm
Weeknights leagues for men, women and couples.

Social Membership

One-Time Initiation Fee: \$200. Monthly dues & fees \$35.
Dining open year-round with the exception of 3 weeks in January! Social activities year-round.

All Memberships are Family Memberships, includes spouse/significant other and children age 22 & under.

*****Golf Membership Specials limited to the first 15 to sign up. Initiation fee accompanies application.***

For more information on these specials, contact: Andrew at 303.681.3305, Ext 4 or Abustamante@perryparkcc.com

Visit our website at perryparkcc.com

7047 Perry Park Blvd., Larkspur, CO 80118

Perry Park is a 501 (c) 7 Corp. Membership approval is by application and requires approval.



We're proud and honored to be named the winner of 7 Caggy Awards including: Colorado's "Best Value" and "Most Underrated" Private Course by Colorado AvidGolfer.

LFPD Continued from page 6

- Types and location of emergency responses and their impacts.

Both events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Please plan to attend both and educate yourself and your family on these important issues.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peggy Whalen, Board President
E-Mail: plwhalen@msn.com
Robert Danti, Treasurer
Cindy Applegate, Secretary
David Vance, Board Member
Rodger Greer, Board Member

Our next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at Station 161. The meetings are open to the public.

MARCH NEWS FROM THE WATER DISTRICT

Jim Matchett ...

The March regular board meeting of the Perry Park Water & Sanitation District was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on the 20th with four directors present. Director LaCrosse had received an excused absence.



MEET YOUR BOARD

Gary Peterson, President
Jim Matchett, Vice President
Andy Morris, Treasurer
Judy LaCrosse, Secretary
Jim Maras, Director
Email: board_ppwsd@comcast.net

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes as amended of the February 20th regular meeting and that approval was unanimous. Disbursements totaling \$199,138.48 were then unanimously approved.

A Public Hearing was then called to order for the purpose of final input and discussions on proposed customer rates and fees and then passing a resolution to adopt the updated rates and fees. The rates and fees had been introduced and discussed at two previous regular board meetings in January and February. After a brief discussion and having received no comments from the attending audience, Resolution 2019-03-001 was passed unanimously. Schedules of the Water and Sewer Rates and Fees which take effect April 1, 2019, are available at the District Office and will also be posted on the District website. Next, an updated Feasibility Study for the DGKS parcels was reviewed

and accepted by the Board.

The District Systems Report for February submitted by Semcor was then reviewed and operations were noted as normal. The Monthly Staff Report submitted by the District Manager was also reviewed. Of particular note here, the Capital Improvement Project at the Sageport Wastewater Treatment Plant will be completed by the end of April.

During the time set aside for audience participation, a District resident who has acquired a buildable lot presented to the board his suggestions for a less expensive connection to the sewage system. The board expressed their tentative support for his ideas but would need more information and specifics before giving any approvals. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. As always, additional information is available on the District website, <https://www.ppwsd.org/>.



DREDGING THE GATEWAY POND AT PERRY PARK RANCH

Rumor has it that the Gateway Pond is supposed to cover five acres. But according to old records it never was supposed to be five acres. The present pond is about two and a half acres and what can be found is that it may have been as large as three and a half acres. Of course, this could have varied when there were wet years. The current project is only to dredge the pond to be deeper by a couple feet. Because of factors such as the Prebble mouse, the cattails cannot be touched as they are in wetlands. A management consultant will be hired to figure how and what can be done from this point forward. Please attend PPMD meetings to hear what more will be done. ~CVanDoorn



OVERHEARD AT WALMART. . .

When I opened my March IREA bill, I almost had a heart attack—and then I noticed that this is what they owe me, not what I owe them—and I almost had the heart attack in surprise!
[Editor's note: Yep.]

REPORT FROM THE METRO DISTRICT
Sean King, Secretary ...

Gateway Pond Dredging Nearing Completion

Construction teams coordinated by the Douglas County Public Works department are wrapping up the co-sponsored project to increase depth and size of the Gateway pond.



Once again, the Metro District would like to thank the following agencies and organizations for their support for the substantial coordination and collaboration needed to make this project work. Those organizations are:

- Douglas County Commissioners office
- Douglas County Public Works
- Douglas Land Conservancy
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Perry Park Water and Sanitation
- Army Corp of Engineers

Perry Park Slash Pile Has Burned

The mid-March blizzard conditions caused plenty of trouble, but the cold and snow offered one major upside: The Larkspur Fire Department was successfully able to ignite and burn the

community slash pile at the back of the park! You can see pictures of their efforts via Perry Park Nextdoor.

The Metro District would like to thank Randy Johnson, Keith Worley, along with volunteers from the Larkspur Fire Department for braving the weather to continue this program and help keep our community safe.

The PPMD Weekly Update

If you haven't seen it yet, there is a weekly e-mail to help provide timely information regarding Perry Park Metropolitan District matters. If you are not already on the mail list, you can register at <http://www.perrypark.org> by clicking on the registration button on the right-hand side.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, April 11th

The next Perry Park Metro District Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th at the Perry Park Country Club. All Perry Park residents are welcome to attend and participate.

The Board of Directors includes:

- Randy Johnson – President (through May 2022)
- Craig Van Doorn – Vice President (through May 2022)
- Linda Black – Assistant Vice President (through May 2022)
- Vanessa Dao – Treasurer (through May 2020)
- Sean King – Secretary (through May 2020)



Interior and Exterior Painting & Staining

Wood Deck Refinishing & Repair

Power Washing of Barns, Commercial, Residential Buildings & Sidewalks

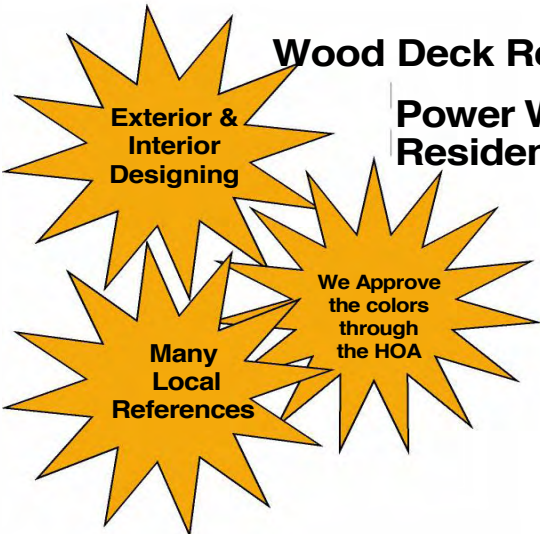
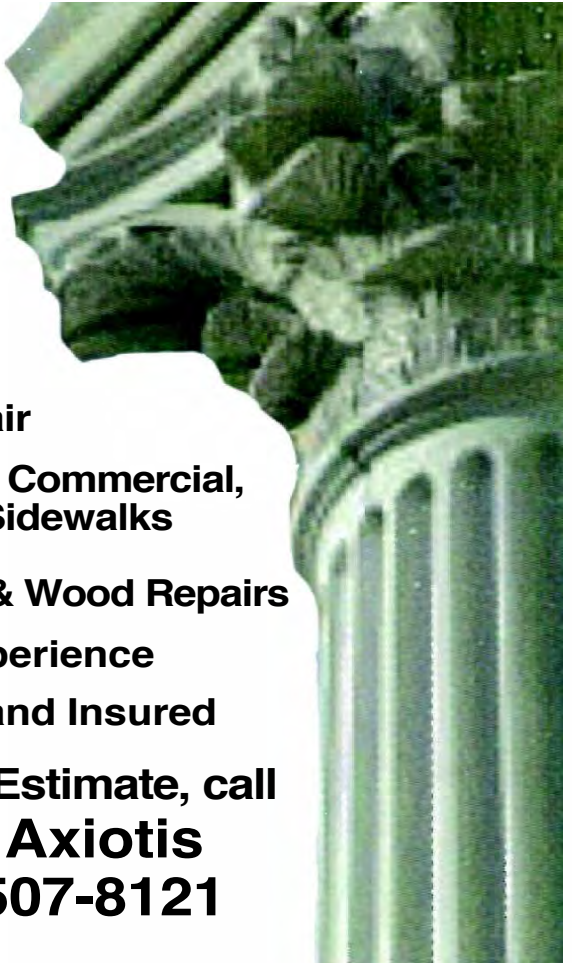
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Ben Wolfe
 Managing Broker & Owner
 Larkspur Resident & Larkspur Real Estate Expert



FOR SALE!
 7151 Fox Circle ~ Perry Park
 Larkspur ~ \$899,000



Just Sold!
 7378 Cameron Circle ~ Sage Port
 Larkspur ~ \$675,000



SOLD BEFORE HITTING MARKET!
 7446 Cameron Drive ~ Sage Port
 Larkspur ~ \$725,000



For Sale!
 6369 Country Club Drive ~ Perry Park
 Larkspur ~ \$69,000

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



"Ben is an extraordinary real estate broker. He was our agent to sell our old home and buy our new home. Not only is he knowledgeable and professional, Ben Wolfe truly puts his client's goals first and performs with integrity in every regard. He advised us on pricing our home for sale, which ultimately sold for \$10k over ask, and on negotiating the deal on our new home - both complex transactions that were completed without issue in a very short time frame. Throughout the journey of both transactions, Ben demonstrated full mastery of the nuances of selling and purchasing a home in Colorado, allowing us to operate from a position of confidence. He is an expert in the Larkspur region and beyond, and he will be our first choice in any future real estate transaction. His network and support team is also first-rate, further demonstrating his ability to communicate, perform and succeed for his clients. A+!"

~Ted & Elizabeth regarding the sale of
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GARDENING IN A DESERT DEER GARDEN

Karen Dale...

People new to the area are asking about gardening in the Larkspur area: when, where, what. I'm not an expert, but I've lived here long enough and tussled with enough hungry deer to pass along a few tips. Anyone interested in doing a real gardening column through the summer and fall months? We'd love to hear from you!



WHEN: Not now. The calendar may say spring, but this is Colorado—and “at altitude” in comparison to Denver and Castle Rock. Don't be fooled by the lovely flowers springing up in those areas. We don't live there. Rule of thumb for our altitude is no plants in the ground until Mother's Day. Some of the very old timers insist none before Memorial Day! But I've lived here 25 years—and Mother's

Day has worked just fine for me. Just don't blame me if it snows two feet on May 25.

WHERE: In amended soil. It is simply a fact of life that you need to amend the soil. We sit on sandstone—that's what those cliffs are. Our “dirt” is sand. Gardening soil, Eco Compost or your own variety, mulch—jazz up the sand. With luck, previous residents have made a start, but it never hurts to amend more. You can do a massive amendment—or you can cheat like I do and add soil and compost hole by hole. You'd think after all these years, my “hole” approach would include the whole bed, but I still have spots that are sand and rock.

WHAT: Think xeriscape, low water and hardy. Unless gardening is your life, you probably are never going to have an English cottage garden with lovely blooms.

First, plants have to be deer resistant. A few plants deer will not eat include Russian Sage, Agastache, Gaillardia, Geum (Prairie Smoke—an interesting shrub. Look it up!), Veronica, Hyacinths, Black-eyed Susans and most daisy/aster types, Larkspur, Lavender, and my absolute favorite for every location: Catmint. You can usually



get away with Salvia and Coneflowers. Deer won't eat daffodils either, so think about those for next fall. They do, however, love tulips. Some people claim they won't eat crocus. Not true. One year I admired my lovely spring crocus as I drove out of the driveway—came home several hours later to dirt. People claim they won't eat marigolds either—but that depends. They don't like the flowers, but they love the plant. I decided to grow

marigolds from seed one year—buckets full and flowing with lovely green stuff just beginning to bud—until the deer wiped them out overnight. Buy them when they're already blooming!



If you just can't stand waiting 'til May, go to High Country Gardens' web site—lots of “desert” plants with full discussion of water and soil—and great pictures. Their online catalog tells you what is deer and rabbit resistant. <https://www.highcountrygardens.com/>

Plant lots of wildflower seeds—preferably perennials. It will take several years for the full effect, but in the meantime, you'll get pops of color. Also think hanging baskets. That's where you can put your colorful annuals (deer just LOVE annuals!). They'll also attract hummingbirds.

A word about hummingbirds: Unless you're prepared to bring those feeders in every night, plant flowers instead. The hummingbird feeders attract both hummingbirds and bears—flowers attract only hummers and bees. Check out Susan Peters' *Wildside* column in this issue—she has a lot on attracting bees.

Continued on page 12

Caretaker

Want to trade a clean, private, nicely maintained 2BR 1 Bath home with all utilities and satellite TV paid, on a quiet, pretty 20 acre country residential property 4 miles West of Larkspur, for caretaker/handyman doing outdoor projects and maintenance. This is a permanent, year-round part-time position. Work averages 2 days per week. The schedule is extremely flexible: You can choose your own days/hours and you can work elsewhere. This is a nice situation for a day off fireman, an independent contractor, or a retired person with an agricultural or ranching background who loves the country.

Duties will primarily include lawn and pasture mowing, string trimming, brush and tree removal and thinning, fence repair, weed spraying, snow removal, barn and corral cleaning, and light maintenance on the equipment. There will be other similar chores and repairs on a regular basis. You should be handy with and enjoy operating power and hand tools, tractor and implements, and you must enjoy working outdoors. You should know how to work safely, be clean and honest, and take pride in the property's appearance. Good quality equipment is available to do every job. The property is currently very well maintained and in great condition.

Call 720-272-0580 for more information and to schedule an interview.

GARDEN Continued from page 11

Of course, the best source for anything horticultural or agricultural is the Colorado State Extension service. Much information on line, or drop by the local office in Castle Rock at the Fairgrounds. To get you started, here's the link to CSU's Preventing Deer Damage—with more deer resistant plants listed.

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/preventing-deer-damage-6-520/>

HUMMINGBIRD TIME!



The average date for Hummingbird arrival in Larkspur is April 14. They often appear in Sage Port, Perry Park East or Bear Dance several days before they get to Perry Park Ranch.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE...

Susan Peters...

All Fin!!!...Pollinators...Short Takes Sprung Ahead



Yes, sireeeee. It may actually happen! Spring, that is. The month of April is crazy busy. The he-in and a-she-in has begun in earnest. Chose your partner and dosi do! Yes, pairs of love-struck birds are showing up at the feeders and bird bath. The cacophony of mating calls fills the air. The flickers are pounding like crazy on various surfaces to attract a mate – does nothing for me, but I am not a flicker.

After the fourth coldest March on written record, I am ready for WARMTH and a true spring. My long Johns have melded with my skin. But more snow is predicted. Enough already!!!

And this is the month the hummingbirds start returning, so best to have a feeder or two up by the middle of the month for some early migrators passing through or some eager scout hummers.

Do not buy the hummingbird food mix, but mix your own with one part granulated sugar (not raw or brown sugar) to 4 cups of boiling water. A good predictor of the arrival of the hummers is a day or so after the toad flax flowers.

And make room for the emergence of the bruins from their long winter naps. That means bringing in bird feeders at night. And your dog, if like ours, loves rolling in bear poop for that special date night.

Those Pollinators

At the Garden and Home Show in February, the CSU Extension Service featured a garden and information tailored toward pollinators, namely bees and butterflies.

Did you know that there are 946 species of bees native to Colorado? And they prefer native plants such as the following:

Early-Season

- Blue Flax – *Linum lewisii*
- Pasque flower – *Pulsatilla patens*

Mid-Season

- Asters (many options available, check with local nurseries)
- Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium*
- Flowering trees including willows and black locust

Late-Season

- Rocky Mountain bee plant – *Cleome serrulata*
- Common sunflower – *Helianthus annuus*
- Goldenrod – *Solidago spp.*
- Late season flowering shrubs

Continued on page 13

Computer Support

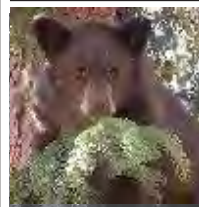
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WILD SIDE Continued from page 11

- Rabbitbrush – *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*

Asters, yarrow, and goldenrod grow wild here. The blue flax is common in wildflower seed.

Honey bees are native to Europe. And contrary to the hurtful sting of the honey bees, native bees either do not sting or do not have enough venom to hurt.

Not many bees nest in a hive. Native bees build their nests in the ground on a hollow place of a tree. The female makes a pollen ball and lays her eggs in that. When the eggs hatch, the resulting larvae feed on the pollen. At the end of the season, the female dies and her adult progeny emerge the next spring to begin the cycle again.



To have your own bee habitat: For gardens for the plants the bees like, do not use ground cloth, but make layers like you would find in the for-

est. Put a shallow dish with pebbles in the bottom for a water source. The bees and wasps indulge their thirst at my bird bath, hanging onto the edge. Replace the water every few days to keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in it.

For those bees that like a shallow groove in wood, leave a dead tree stump in your yard for an architectural feature or provide dead branches.

And you can buy or make nesting boxes. Situate the box in an open, but protected place that gets early morning sun so that the bees can regulated their temperatures to be able to warm up to flying temperatures. See a couple of examples of bee houses below. The larger one is called a bee hotel complete with check-in services.



Continued on page 15

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

WILD SIDE Continued from page 13

You can find much more information on the CSU Extension Service fact sheet at

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/insect/05615.pdf>

Short Takes

The Audubon Society published this picture of a Common Loon couple who adopted a Common Golden-Eyed duck baby. The latter looks similar to baby loons, who hop on their parents back for a ride across the lake.



And southern California after a very wet winter is experiencing what they call a Poppy Armageddon. California yellow poppies are having a prolific growth, attracting thousands of visitors and the Painted Lady Butterfly in previously unseen numbers. One lady said that she had seen more of these butterflies in an hour than in her entire life. With all the moisture we are experiencing, we can hope for something similar sans the traffic.

The jays, turkeys, and crows are not the only critters that relish the cracked corn that I throw out. Now the mule deer are enjoying a corny snack. I also saw them eating pine needles from a nearby Ponderosa pine. REALLY? Even as the succulent new green grass emerges.

And did you see the pictures of the Queen Elephant of Kenya with her tusks that go to the ground? These elephants are called “tusk-ers” and fewer than 10 are left in the wild due to poaching. And it has been found that some African elephants have evolved to not having tusks at all to increase their chance for survival. Take that, Poachers! Maybe you will evolve not to have testicles. Currently on Mozambique 51 percent of the known female elephants are tuskless!



And a once thought to be extinct species of subtropical water frog has been discovered in a stream in Bolivia. Romeo, a



Sencuencas frog, was first identified in 2008. Now an adolescent female they call Juliet has emerged, along with three other males. Romeo has competition! The scientists are quarantining them due to a deadly fungus called chytrid that is killing amphibians worldwide. They are sequestered in a clean room and people observing them have to wear “clean” coveralls and head gear. Look at those eyes in the photo. Wow.

That’s all, folks, for this month. Gotta run – our two foster puppies are making like koi in our pond – the little stinkers.

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

DOUGLAS COUNTY’S SLASH-MULCH SITE

At 1400 Caprice Drive in Castle Rock, opens April 6 and will remain open on Saturdays-only from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. through October 26. The perfect place to dispose of limbs, shrubs and brush, the site also gives residents the opportunity to go home with fresh mulch. Douglas County’s other slash-mulch site, located at 7828 S. Colo. 67 (2.5 miles north of Deckers), is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. year-round. Acceptable items at both sites include tree limbs, shrubs, brush with a maximum length of 6 ft. and maximum diameter of 12 inches. Loose pine needles are accepted but must be kept separate from other items. Please note all loads must be covered upon arrival to the slash mulch site.



DOUGLAS COUNTY PREPARES FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

The Board of Douglas County Commissioners approved contracts with four companies during their March 26 Business Meeting, all of whom may provide aerial support on wildland fires. The Board also adopted its Annual Operating Plan — which sets forth roles and responsibilities for the County, the State, and the U.S. Forest Service during a wildfire response in Douglas County.



The following call-when-needed air support contracts, each for up to \$100,000 in aerial support services, are good for a period of 12 months: Heliqwest International, Inc.; Aero S.E.A.T. Inc.; Rampart Helicopter Services, LLC; and 10 Tanker Air Carrier, LLC.

“Due to the strong possibility of dry conditions in and around Douglas County, coupled with the limited air resource availability in the region for fighting wildland fires, it is imperative that we have every resource possible available to us,” said the County’s Director of Emergency Management Tim Johnson.

**BARB ECKERT IS RETIRING
PUT THE DATE ON
YOUR CALENDAR**

Barb Eckert, long time teacher at Larkspur Elementary School, is retiring this year.



A reception honoring her years of teaching, caring and friendship will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 4:30 to 6 p.m., at the school. Please spread the word, as the whole community is invited to say goodbye to Barb since she is also moving to Michigan after her retirement. She will certainly enjoy seeing old friends, new friends, former students and reliving all the wonderful memories of her years at Larkspur.

She will be deeply missed here and we would like to give her a memorable send off.

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Email ads to ppsentinel@comcast.net (you will receive an acceptance receipt.) Charges and submission instructions will be advised via email after typesetting. Please include physical billing address. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any submitted advertising.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE IS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH

TEEN FOR HIRE

Hi! I'm Dawson Dwernychuk, I am 17 years old looking to do any job you need. I can provide yard work, watch/feed your animals or plants, shovel snow, or anything you need. Contact me at 720-288-9607.

Experienced and responsible 17 year old available to pet sit and babysit. To reach Mallory Meeks, please text or call (832)363-7933 with any questions.

Dependable and trustworthy 14 year old looking to pet sit and babysit. CPR and first aid training completed. Please call or text Jacqueline Meeks at (832)600-8014.

Hey! I'm Chance Cotham, I'm 15 years old and a sophomore at castle view high school. I can take care of plants, dogs, yard work, and any other thing you'd need! Please contact me @ 720-775-8345 or chancecotham17@gmail.com

A trust worthy sixth grader looking for hire for pet sitting. Anywhere in the Larkspur/ Perry park area. To contact Kylie email kateandkylie910@gmail.com or call 720- 877-1998.

My name is Trace, I am 18 and a PP res. I am available for jobs that include yard work, pet walking / sitting, snow shoveling, fire mitigation and more. Sandy Divan can be contacted for reference at 303-681-0132. I also have a 16 y/o brother that can help with big jobs, so call me at 720-420-9767 today!

An experienced and trustworthy 12 year old looking for hire to pet sit in the Perry Park area. I am qualified for all your pet sitting needs. To contact Kylie email kateandkylie910@gmail.com or call 720-412-1567.

I am available for babysitting! I am twelve years old (almost 13), CPR/AED First Aid certified .I enjoy spending time with little kids. Please contact me Carissa O'Donnell 303-578-2323 or obevy@aol.com.

My name is Clayton Saunders I am a hard worker, boy scout, and high school athlete. I will work for all jobs and services you would need. Contact me at (720)-369-6941 or clayton.saunders19@gmail.com

New! Super Summer Nanny/Sitter Available For Hire: Need a fun, dependable, affordable nanny to provide care for your kiddo(s) this summer? My name is Teaghan Todd; I am a freshman in highschool and I absolutely love kids. I am responsible, CPR/AED certified, and have my babysitting certification. I would love to help give your kids a summer they can remember. Call or text me at (303) 726 7534 or email me at teartodd@gmail.com

My name is Kylie Cronin and I am 14 years old. I am great with children and animals and will always give them 100% of my attention. If you are looking for an experienced and dependable baby sitter, pet sitter, or someone to do household chores please contact me at kylie.queen21@gmail.com or 720-412-1567. I am looking for work in the Perry Park and Larkspur area.

My name is London. I am 16 yrs old, a junior at CVHS and live in the Sageport area. I am available for pet or baby sitting. Please call 303.250.8125

Dependable and responsible 17 year old available for babysitting, nannying and pet sitting with years of experience, contact Brenna Martin at 719-728-0349 or at brennaashlynmartin@gmail.com.

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

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Advertising/ Diane Jauch 303-663-1867

Business Mgr.: email - ppsentinel@comcast.net

Proofreaders: Thanks to Terry Brownfied for carefully proofreading!

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

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

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

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