



Larkspur

Sentinel

December 2023

Serving Perry Park, Larkspur,
and the surrounding community

It's been an honor and a privilege!!

Happy December everyone! Are you keeping those mittens, hats, and warm boots by the front door for easy access? We sure are! What a treat to see all the holiday lights on these darker, cold evenings.

Well, here we are 41 issues since May 2023 when I became the editor/publisher of the Larkspur Sentinel. The challenge held quite a learning curve and you all have been very patient and supportive every step of the way. It has been my goal to provide the people of 80118 with local, interesting, and fun information. This would be an impossible task without the volunteer writers who step up every month, and those who jump in intermittently make the Sentinel what it is! Our loyal advertisers generously support the effort, as we hope you generously support their businesses! And the advisory board that has helped me navigate this whole process! My heartfelt gratitude to each and all of you! Over the past 4 years, we have provided nearly \$14,000 in sponsorships to many worthwhile programs, including Larkspur Elementary School, the 4th of July Parade, Douglas Land Conservancy, and Aging Resources of Douglas County.

Now it is time to pass the baton. The new publisher of the Sentinel is Stephanie Deininger and the editor is Kate Wessels. They are introduced in this issue. They are going to do a marvelous job continuing the long-standing legacy of this communication, and I'm grateful for their willingness to volunteer. (You will still be able to reach the Sentinel through the email address: larkspursentinel@gmail.com)

Please remember that is always a good thing to be kind. . .and grateful.

And I am grateful,

Margot Patterson

Editor

larkspursentinel@gmail.com



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



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



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



4850 CROW DRIVE | 2 ACRES IN PERRY PARK! | OFFERED AT \$1,100,000



7267 COMANCHE COURT | JUST LISTED | \$899,000



6375 PIKE CIRCLE | PERRY PARK | SOLD | \$974,900



4288 DELAWARE DRIVE | PERRY PARK | SOLD | \$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?

Dec 2 - Larkspur Tree Lighting - 4:00-8:00 pm at Community Park

Dec 7 and 21 - Larkspur Town Council Meeting - 6:00-8:00 pm** at Town Hall

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

Dec 12 - Larkspur Planning Commission - PUBLIC meeting - 5:00-6:00 pm at Town Hall

Dec 12 - Larkspur Chamber Monthly Mixer - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - at The Spur

Dec 13 - Larkspur Blanket Brigade 10 am - 3 pm - at Perry Park Country Club

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

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

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



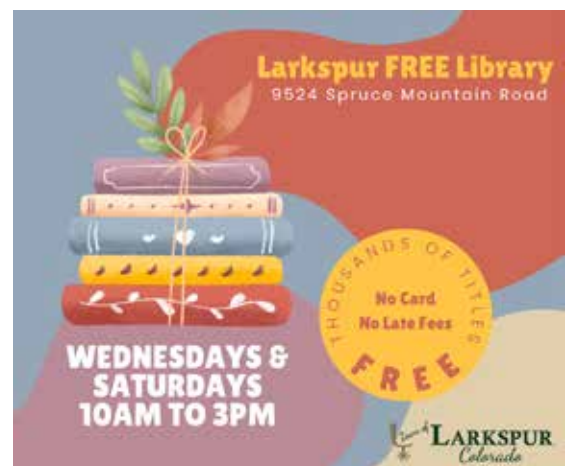
The Town of Larkspur is hiring once again. We are looking for someone that is available full-time to be our Town Clerk and another to be our director of public works and park maintenance. Both positions are very important for the Town.

Each position requires someone that is extremely detail-oriented and dedicated. Someone that knows and loves our town would be a plus.

If you are interested in either of these positions, you can check our website for job descriptions along with applications and where to send your resumé.

Townoflarkspur.org

The Larkspur Town Council and Staff would like to extend our wishes for a very joyous holiday season.



Meet your new Sentinel leadership team. . .

Stephanie Y. Deininger, Publisher, has been an active member of the Larkspur community since moving to the area 5 years ago. She has organized the Larkspur Community Garage Sale for the past 5 years, does the online communications & marketing for the Larkspur Area Chamber of Commerce and is an avid supporter of the local community. Stephanie's educational background is in Communications, Marketing & Business. She is the owner of The Organized Flamingo, a local professional organizing company that specializes in all things organizing and productivity for the home, life and small businesses.



Kate Wessels, Editor, is a Colorado native. She spent most of her childhood in Valley Park, attending Larkspur Elementary from kindergarten onward and graduating from Douglas County High School. After graduating from CU-Boulder with degrees in journalism and international affairs, she and her husband moved back to Larkspur to raise their family. Kate has spent most of her career working in communications roles for veterinary organizations; she recently started a new position overseeing marketing and communications for a national association of HVAC contractors.



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

Christmas Craft Event

Come and visit our garage for handmade items and unique gifts! . Stop by and see us today!

Gifts | Crafts | Cookies

Where Shopping is Fun!

THREE BEAR GIFTS

OPENING DECEMBER 7th
& every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
thru the Month of December
10AM-4PM

8546 Spruce Mountain Rd.
Larkspur, CO 80118

Take 10% off your purchase of Metal Art with Coupon

Three Bear Gifts

A detailed advertisement for a Christmas Craft Event. The ad is decorated with festive elements like snowflakes, a gingerbread man, and a Christmas tree. It features a large image of various metal art pieces, including a horse, a bear, and a cross, displayed on a wooden background. The text provides details about the event, including the date, time, location, and a special offer for metal art.



FROM THE LARKSPUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

by Wayne Moore, Member-Board of Directors

October 2023 Calls by Incident Type

Total Calls: 66

- Rescue & Emergency Medical Incident = 44 (66.67%)
 - Emergency Medical Service Incidents = 43 (97.73%)
 - EMS Call, excluding vehicle accident w/ injury = 24 (55.81%)
 - Motor Vehicle accident with injuries = 12 (27.91%)
 - Motor Vehicle accident with no injuries = 6 (13.95%)
 - Emergency Medical Service Incident, Other = 1 (2.33%)
 - Emergency Medical Service Incident, other = 1 (2.27%)

- Good Intent Call = 11 (16.67%) \
 - Dispatched & Canceled enroute = 9 (81.82%)
 - Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke = 1 (9.09%)
 - Good Intent Call, other = 1 (9.09%)

- Service Call = 5 (7.58%)
 - Service Call, other = 1 (20%)
 - Person in Distress = 1 (20%)
 - Public Service Assistance = 1 (20%)
 - Unauthorized Burning = 2 (40%)

- False Alarm = 4 (6.06%)
 - System or Detector Malfunction = 1 (100%)

- Fire = 1 (1.51%)
 - Mobile Property Vehicle Fire = 1 (100%)

Hazardous condition (no fire) = 1 (1.51%)

Combustible/flammable spills & leaks = 1 (100%)



New Fire Chief On November 22, the LFPD Board of Directors named Tim McCawley as the Fire Chief of the Larkspur Fire Protection District. Prior to joining our department, Chief McCawley was the Assistant Chief of the Bennett Fire Protection District in Bennett, Colorado. Chief McCawley reported to duty on November 27. Please welcome Chief McCawley to our district and give him your full support. We are excited to learn from his experience going forward and to develop leadership at every level.

The Board of Directors is impressed by the progress that has been made under the leadership of Interim Fire Chief Walden. Chief Walden will continue to be involved in a leadership position with the department. The Board is proud of the progress we have all made in a short time, and we expect that progress to continue.



**LFPD board meeting
December 14th at 6 pm
Station 161 in Larkspur**

Larkspur Fire Protection District Fire Academy Graduation

Although the population demographics within the LFPD have significantly changed since its formation as an entirely volunteer service, Volunteer Firefighters continue serving essential roles. On November 10th, LFPD graduated four recruits from our fire academy. The LFPD academy is conducted over fourteen weeks, twice/week in the evenings and every other Saturday. The instructors are from a cadre of our paid and volunteer staff and use the training facilities within LFPD and at live burn training grounds owned by adjacent fire agencies. Next in their training progression is Wildland Firefighter certification. Our volunteer recruits are held to the same training standards and professional conduct as the paid staff. They now also have to meet a minimum number of monthly hours for in-station staffing.



Academy Graduates: Koltyn Leitzinger, Jordan Boriack, Edward Simm, Jordan Wright, and Lt. Calvin Brown LFPD Training Officer.

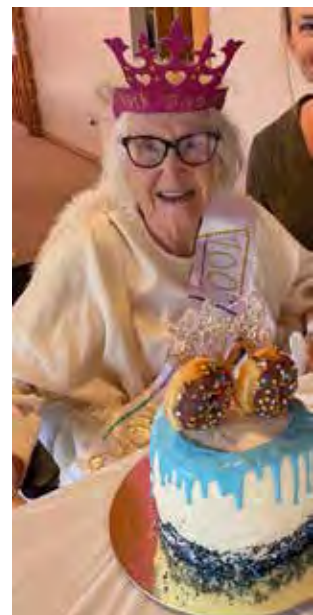
Volunteer Firefighters come to LFPD with a wide range of education and work experience backgrounds and each has their motivation to serve. Starting as a Volunteer Firefighter can open a career pathway in the fire service. Many of the LFPD paid staff started as volunteers with us, while others of our volunteers have found career opportunities with other fire agencies. Some volunteers have well-established professional careers and find being a Volunteer Firefighter is their contribution to the community. Regardless of one's reasons, they share a common sense of pride in performing meaningful work and the camaraderie experienced among all Firefighters.

To learn more about becoming an LFPD Volunteer Firefighter, contact Lt. Calvin Brown at 303-681-3284 or larkspurfire.org

Tez is 100!

Montez Roller Smith , Perry Park resident since 2010, turned 100 on October 27. Tez is a children's book author and illustrator. She plans to be selling her books at the Perry Park Country Club Holiday Bazaar on Dec.3. Stop by and wish her a happy belated birthday

(photo to the right is Tez at 6 months, and Tez on her birthday!)





Perry Park Metropolitan District

The Special District For Perry Park Ranch

by Steve Ostrowski, Secretary, PPMD Board of Directors

Hello Perry Park!

We continue to review and plan the 2024 budget for our metro district. Thank you all for the input on the resident survey which we have reviewed as we make budgeting decisions and consider spending our reserves for projects to improve the community. We will share the results of the survey across our communications channels. With Proposition HH failing, and new legislation coming from the Colorado state government, impacts to property taxes are still being finalized.

Other current topics on the board include:

- Entryway Improvements - most residents supported the entryway improvements, and we are proceeding with phase 1 planning, including burying overhead power lines and establishing infrastructure for future landscaping.
- Electric Lines Improvement - we have confirmed with CORE that they will be making improvements to their power network within the park, but not at the entrance.
- Cellular Service Improvements - we are progressing on adding cellular towers which would improve communications for residents and also help in emergencies. The industry is slowing its expansion and setting up towers will be a long-term initiative. If you would like to help this initiative, send us letters of support to include with planning packages.
- Gateway Pond water rights - regarding the pending water court case where we are seeking approval of a plan to maintain water rights to current levels on the pond, we have appealed to the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners to have this pond designated as an emergency fire suppression pond which would resolve this issue going forward and save the district a lot of money.

- Wauconda Park master plan - we are creating a conceptual master plan for Wauconda Park, to increase the usage of this resource.
- Gilloon Pond improvements - most residents support adding gravel to the walkway that has been cleared around the pond. We will continue to pursue this initiative.
- Committees - Volunteers are always welcome on our various committees: Independence Day, Firewise, Entry Design, and Parks and Open Space. We need your help implementing great ideas for improving our community! Reach out to us at info@perrypark.org to offer your help and we'll get you connected.
- Donations to Community Events - The Perry Park Community Fund is a non-profit, tax deductible, 501c(3) fund. See our website for more information. Zelle is now a donation option to make it easier.

Our December board meeting is scheduled for Thursday – December 14, 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 have you there.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors.

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

PPMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



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! Mountain Views!

SOLD
\$910,000



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



Seller Carry Terms!
Call for details

1100 Silverheels Dr. - Perry Park East

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

FOR SALE
\$265,000



1345 Fremont Dr. - Sage Port

READY-TO-BUILD 1-Acre lot in Sage Port only 1/2-mile from the Club House at Bear Dance. Water & Sewer tap fees have been pre-paid! Enjoy lush, forested land with Southeast Facing exposure. Pins are staked & flagged.

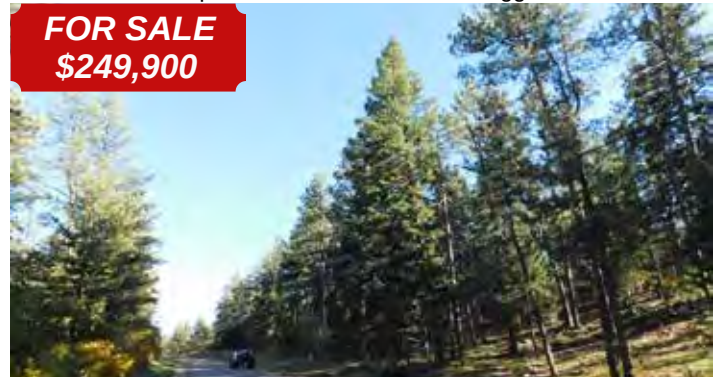
FOR SALE
\$299,000



691 Poncho Rd. - Sage Port

READY-TO-BUILD 1-Acre lot in Sage Port only 1-mile from the Bear Dance Golf Course. Soaring Ponderosa Pines and gently rolling South-Facing topography. Water & Sewer tap fees have been pre-paid. \$60K LID Assessment 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.



LARKSPUR AREA SPECALIST!

303-681-1000

www.DaveGardnerRealEstate.com.com



Global Water and Sanitation Crisis

by *Brian Arthurs, Treasurer, Water District*



“Globalization was supposed to break down barriers between continents and bring all peoples together. But what kind of globalization do we have with over one billion people on the planet not having safe water to drink?” – Mikhail Gorbachev

Facts about water:

- 85% of the world population lives in the driest half of the planet.
- 780 million people lack access to an improved water source.
- In some countries, less than half the population has access to clean water.
- 80% of all illnesses in the developing world are water related.
- 40 billion hours are spent collecting water in Africa alone.
- 1.4 million people die each year, and 74 million lives will be shortened due to diseases associated with poor water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The urgency of the global water and sanitation crisis cannot be overstated, as the challenges we face are immense and consequential.

The discharge of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater is causing widespread deterioration of rivers worldwide. This contamination poses an increasing risk of pathogen-related diseases and is introducing excessive nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus, into coastal and shoreline ecosystems. The influx of nutrients into freshwater bodies triggers algal blooms, rendering these waters unsuitable for drinking and recreational activities. Moreover, as detailed in the April 2023 Larkspur Sentinel, the emergence of contaminants like PFAS is expected to continue.

Groundwater pollution poses a unique challenge due to its insidious nature. Unlike surface water pollution, which is often visible and readily apparent, groundwater contamination can remain undetected for years, gradually infiltrating the underground water system. This concealed threat makes it difficult to identify and address, often allowing the contamination to spread extensively before it is noticed.

Water pollution also has a ripple effect on the entire food chain. When aquatic organisms are poisoned, the predators that rely on them for food can also be affected. This can lead to population declines and even extinctions.

The economic impact of water pollution is also significant. The cost of treating polluted water and the loss of revenue from tourism and fishing can be devastating to local economies.

Gauging water pollution is crucial for determining its severity and crafting effective solutions. Physical tests assess water’s observable traits, such as color, turbidity, and temperature. Chemical tests evaluate pollutant levels, including heavy metals, pesticides, and organic compounds. Biological tests measure the impact on aquatic life by examining specific microorganisms or fish.

International cooperation over transboundary water resources is essential, but it remains a challenge. While collaboration over shared basins and aquifers can provide numerous benefits beyond water security, only 6 of the world’s 468 internationally shared aquifers are currently managed under a formal cooperative agreement.

One of the key challenges to resolving the global water and sanitation crisis is the undervaluation of water. Its significance extends far beyond its monetary value. It is the lifeblood of our planet,

Blanket Brigade (WE WARM HEARTS)

The Larkspur Blanket Brigade makes quilts/blankets for anyone in need of extra support. Our group was formed by 4 folks in 2015 and has grown to 15 dedicated souls. This year we completed 209 quilts.

If you know of anyone in need of comfort, contact Cindy at cjaspsjr@yahoo.com. We will arrange to get a blanket to you.

We are a 501(c)3 and we operate mainly with donations of fabric. If you have any extra fabric, batting or yarn, please consider donating to our group.

We meet from 10am - 2 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the Perry Park Country Club, 7047 Perry Park Blvd. Please consider joining us in this rewarding effort.

No special sewing skills needed, except threading a needle:-). We only tie quilts in the meeting. If you like to sew and want to do more at home we sure can accommodate you:-). COME JOIN US!

(Pictured at the right is a happy recipient of one of BB's blankets.)



Global Water continued from previous page

sustaining ecosystems, supporting agriculture, and enabling human existence.

Investing in water and sanitation infrastructure is paramount for securing clean water and sanitation services for all. By prioritizing water and sanitation infrastructure, we can safeguard public health, bolster economic growth, and foster sustainable development.

Further information is available on the district website, www.ppwsd.org.

On behalf of the Perry Park Water and Sanitation District, we extend our warmest wishes for a joyous and healthy holiday season.



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**

A stylized illustration of a tree with a brown trunk and green foliage. The tree is covered in small, yellow, teardrop-shaped fruits. The tree is set against a green background with a grassy base.

KNOTHEAD
TREE AND LAWN CARE

A message from Buddy, the Elf. . .



Dear Larkspur Neighbors,

Greetings from the heart of the holiday season! As we embrace the joy and warmth that this time of year brings, I am thrilled to share some exciting news that will surely make our community sparkle with even more festive cheer.

Guess who's in town and ready to spread some magic! None other than myself, Buddy The Elf, straight from the North Pole! I have been feeling incredibly blessed this season, and what better way to share my blessings and joy than by bringing a touch of Elf enthusiasm to our beloved Larkspur neighborhood.

For the third year in a row, starting Thanksgiving week, I will be embarking on a mission to sprinkle the magic of the season by hiding heartfelt gifts throughout our community. These gifts are not just presents; they are tokens of love and kindness meant to brighten someone's day and create unforgettable moments of joy.

Now, you might be wondering: How can you join in on the fun and be a part of this heartwarming adventure? Well, fear not, dear neighbors! Once again, I will be posting clues leading to the hidden treasures. These clues will be shared exclusively on the Larkspur Neighbor to Neighbor Facebook page.

Make sure you're tuned in, because these clues will lead you to discover the carefully placed gifts, each with a touch of Elf creativity and a whole lot of holiday spirit. It's our way of fostering a sense of community togetherness and bringing smiles to faces young and old.

But the joy doesn't stop there! This is an opportunity for all of us to come together and appreciate the blessings that surround us. As we unwrap the magic hidden within our community, let's also take a moment to reflect on the love and warmth that makes Larkspur truly special.

So, dear neighbors, get ready to embark on a season of surprises, Elf-style! Let's make this holiday season one to remember, filled with laughter, love, and the unmistakable twinkle of Elf magic.

Wishing you all a season brimming with joy and warmth,

Buddy The-Elf
Your Festive Neighbor in Larkspur



"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
\$1,145,000

4 Bedroom/4 Bathrooms
2.30 Wooded Acres

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 Listed!
1871 Grayhawk Place
Bear Dance, Larkspur
\$650,000



Under Contract!
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

Certified Wildlife Habitat

by Anonymous Bird Watcher

Have you noticed homes around Larkspur with this sign? Have you wondered how someone's yard becomes a Certified Wildlife Habitat? This program is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and the Colorado Wildlife Federation. It is primarily about bird habitat.

Do you keep feeding birds during the winter? Do you have some bird-houses or other materials for the birds to raise their young? Do you have a garden and some native plants? You may qualify! The biggest challenge for many is providing a full-time water supply. I bought a heated birdbath, although I was a bit skeptical of how it would handle a real Larkspur snowstorm. When we had our cold and snow a couple weeks back, I was pleased to see that the water in the birdbath was just fine, and the birds were drinking happily. If your birdbath is too far away from a power source, I have read that a tennis ball in a birdbath can keep it free of ice. The wind pushes it around, keeps any ice from forming. I'm skeptical (again), but it would be fun if someone tried it and gave us a report.

All you have to do to certify your yard is click on this link <https://www.nwf.org/certify>, fill out a questionnaire, and donate \$20.

As the sign says, it is about food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Check it out!



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

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

Douglas Land Conservancy presents Oak Leaf Awards to the Boands

by Richard Bangs, DLC Board member



Jane and Steve Boand, long-time residents of Castle Rock and Douglas County, have received life-time achievement awards for their work in land conservation and public service.

The DLC, a non-profit land trust based in Castle Rock, presented its 2023 Oak Leaf Awards to the Boands at a public event on November 2.

The award is given annually to people who have shown a long lasting and consistent effort to improve the Douglas County community through land conservation and public service.

Jane Boand is one of the founding members of DLC and has been on the land trust's board of directors since its inception in 1987. She has been board president multiple time and has, among other things, served for many years as chair of DLC's project committee which oversees applications from landowners wishing to protect their properties.

Steve Boand has served on the Castle Rock Town Council and the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners. He has worked many years promoting land and water conservation and was a part of the citizens' group that brought forward a ballot issue to extend the county's sales tax for open space in the 2022 election.

At the Oak Leaf event, a video was shown in which the Boands recalled their move to the Castle Rock area in 1986 and their efforts since then to protect the unique landscapes of Douglas County and the surrounding areas. After the video, four people who have worked with and known the Boands for many years introduced the couple to the attendees.

A close friend highlighted Jane's effort to establish a land trust in Douglas County. She cited Boand's education in natural resource planning and an internship with the Nature Conservancy that spurred her to learn about land conservation during a time when Douglas County was one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. In 1986 Boand was part of a group that decided it would form a land trust and DLC became official in 1987.

The DLC board recognized Jane's multiple terms as president of the Board. As chair of the projects committee for many years, Boand was responsible to see the potential easement donations were worthy of protection and that all the required paperwork was in order. "Without Jane's effort, DLC would not have the high standards we have created over the years. Her contributions to DLC's excellence and the quality of life in Douglas County cannot be overstated."

Steve Boand was highlighted by two co-workers on land conservation issues in Douglas County, including the recent effort to get an extension of the open space sales tax on the ballot. They recalled that Boand's wit and knowledge of the issues helped guide the strategy to get the issue on the ballot, which then went on to win the popular vote by about 80 percent.



Laura Sanford, DLC Executive Director, left, and Richard Bangs, DLC Board member, right, present the Oak Leaf Award to Jane and Steve Boand.

DLC continued from previous page

Steve was also instrumental in helping to transfer from Douglas County to DLC easements that were held by the county on county-owned property. That move offered an extra protection for that land.

The Oak Leaf Award was then presented to the Boards by Laura Sanford, DLC Executive Director, and Richard Bangs.

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

Window Washing Screen Cleaning & Repair

Free Quotes!
(720)821-0588



Locally Owned and Operated

The Jacobson's Perry Park Lights!

6386 Perry Park Blvd.
Larkspur, CO 80118
(Perry Park Ranch Neighborhood)

Show Hours:

PerryParkLights.Com To Select Songs When At The Show!
Show music selections will appear when the show is ON AIR!

Show Starts Thanksgiving Evening and Final show is New Years Eve Sunday

Sun - Thurs | 5:30 P.M. to 9 P.M.

Fri - Sat | 5:30 P.M. to 10 P.M.

Tune To Radio Station 89.9 When At The Show

THE JACOBSON'S
TODD, JODY, AND ELLIE

Happy Holidays from Aging Resources

by Amy Pfister, Community Engagement Coordinator



What a whirlwind 2023 has been! It feels like just last week that we were planning for the year ahead, and here we are about to see it come to a close.

2023 has been a year of tremendous growth at Aging Resources as we've seen an unprecedented increase in the number of older adults needing our services and help, and with our assistance (and the best volunteers in the world), we've been able to help so many seniors stay in their homes and remain independent.

If you'd like to be a part of the Larkspur area team that provides help to older friends and neighbors, please visit our website to sign up as a volunteer. Volunteering with Aging Resources can make such a difference in the life of the senior you're helping, and yours as well. Our volunteers make all it all happen! If you have a little free time and are looking for a way to make a difference in your community, join the Larkspur area ARDC volunteer team [here](#).

If you don't have the time to volunteer, please consider a donation to help support our efforts. This past year, Aging Resources has served more older adults than ever before, with a steady increase in the Larkspur area. As a non-profit, our services are free, but it takes support from the community to do what we do! We want to continue to meet the growing needs of older adults but need your help to do that. Please donate to Aging Resources on December 5th, Colorado Gives Day. This statewide day of giving allows you to "give where you live" and support local non-profits that make a difference right here in your own backyard. It only takes a little bit to make a big impact on the life of a senior. Donations are gratefully accepted [here](#).

Do you know an older Larkspur neighbor who might benefit from Aging Resources services? Winter can bring about extra challenges for older adults. Shoveling snow, getting out to the grocery store or doctor, visiting with friends and family.... These activities can prove to be especially challenging during the winter months. If you know someone over 60 who could use an extra helping hand this winter have them give Aging Resources a call at 303-814-4300.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a healthy start to the New Year! Happy Holidays from all of us at Aging Resources!

www.GoARDC.org www.coloradogives.org





SEASONS GREETINGS FROM LARKSPUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Larkspur Historical Society (LHS) had a great 2023 public events with Larkspur walks and programs featuring the History of Perry Park, the settling of southern Douglas County, and an open house at the Crull-Hammond Cabin. 2024 is going to be filled with more amazing events that will reveal even more of this pioneering history and culture of southern Douglas County and Divide County. Catch the February Sentinel issue to find out when and where these educational events will be held.

Watch for us in 2024 for exciting history events. Consider getting involved with and visit us on Facebook. Have a great New Year, learning about our pioneering history and culture of southern Douglas County.

*Merry
Christmas*



Larkspur Historical Society

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

**THANKFUL FOR THE OPEN SPACES,
BEAUTIFUL VIEWS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
IN DOUGLAS COUNTY?**

**WHEN YOU'RE COUNTING YOUR BLESSINGS
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, PLEASE REMEMBER
DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY
HAS BEEN PROTECTING WHAT IS SPECIAL
IN OUR REGION SINCE 1987.**

**Please visit
www.DouglasLandConservancy.org
for more information and to donate.**

**DOUGLAS LAND CONSERVANCY
YOUR LOCAL 501(C)3 LAND TRUST
(303)688-8025**



Douglas Land Conservancy

2024 Larkspur Elementary School PTO SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Deadline
February 21, 2024



Larkspur Elementary PTO is at Larkspur Elementary School.

17 hours ago · Larkspur, CO ·

Larkspur Elementary School's PTO is proud to announce that we will once again be offering 3 college scholarships, each for \$1000. There is a mind-boggling number of scholarships available but very few are like the ones offered by our school. Why are these different from other scholarships? It's because only Douglas County School District Seniors who attended Larkspur Elementary for 4 consecutive years are eligible to apply. With such a small number of eligible students, the chances of winning are greatly increased! The links below will take you to the specific application instructions for each of the 3 scholarships. You may also use the drop down Scholarship menu on the website to access general information on the awards' history, eligibility, and application deadline (February 21, 2024). Over this Thanksgiving break why not work on your application? Your parents will surely thank you!

https://www.larkspurpto.org/stuart_mazanec

https://www.larkspurpto.org/liz_yost

https://www.larkspurpto.org/volunteer_scholarship

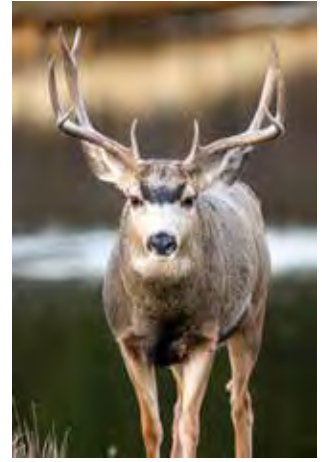


**Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!**

The Mule Deer of Larkspur

by Jacob Dietrich

As a Colorado Native, I've been fortunate to live and work in diversely different areas of the state. However, in my experience, none of those areas have had near the amount of teeming wildlife, and wildlife activity, that Larkspur beholds. Easing off exit 173 from I-25, you're immediately greeted by a bright yellow sign warning of frequent turkey crossings. However, it's only the beginning of plentiful wildlife ahead! While turkeys are certainly popular in the area, I find it's more frequently a four-legged creature that can be seen flirting along the roadsides. With their light brown coloring, quiet nature, and effortless ability to hop fences, they often seem to appear out of nowhere!



At this point, you might've already guessed that I'm eluding to mule deer! While these gorgeous animals are always entertaining to see, it's important to learn about local wildlife so that we can do our part to conserve and protect these animals for generations to come!

Averaging 130 pounds for females, and 160 pounds for males, there's estimated to be 8,300 mule deer in the Larkspur and surrounding area. This herd stretches across several game units, is known as "Bailey" to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and in the past year has had a nearly 10% population increase! With such astounding numbers, it's no surprise they are so frequently spotted around town!

From mid-November into mid-December, mule deer are breeding, also known as the rut. During this time of year, bucks will appear at their biggest. As they enter the season, they're broad and stout as their testosterone rushes. Their antlers, which have been growing since spring, are presented like crowns. It's during this time that bucks will instinctively work to find does, with hopeful efforts of siring.



Pregnancy rates are exceptionally high among mule deer, especially for does older than a year and a half. Their rates are an astounding 75-100%! Pregnancies last for an average of 200 days before a fawn is produced, weighing from six to eight pounds. Lifespans for wild mule deer range from eleven years for does, to only eight years for bucks. Throughout their lives, mule deer will depend mostly on trees and shrubbery during the winter, and switch over to forbs plants (herbaceous flowering plants) in the summer.

These facts are only a short snippet into the intricacies of mule deer, and while Larkspur has had continuously strong population numbers, we must respect and care for our wildlife. In recent years, Colorado has been facing an overall declining population of mule deer. Outside of winter habitat quality, mule deer are being harshly disrupted by other factors such as loss of habitat, harassment, and displacement outside of natural factors such as predation or competition with other species. By working together to care for our environment, taking control of harmful pests and weeds, and getting involved within our communities, we can all find ways to not only enhance wildlife habitats, but ensure their safety for many years ahead as well.



Jacob Dietrich is a local rancher and wildlife photographer.

A Walk on the Wild Side...

by Susan Peters

Seasonal Musings...Here comes Rudolph and his Merry Gang...Awesome Holiday Gift Suggestions...More Award-Winning Nature Pix ...Short Takes



The Season Spirit

This Fall has started out as a warm one, enjoyable but there may be a price to pay. The coldest temperatures so far have made a debut and will continue into the first week in December.

After a snow large flocks of birds wait for me to put out the grub. The jays obnoxiously let me know to put out a bag of peanuts for them. Hubby Dave has recently started scattering some peanuts on the deck railings. Now the jays have upped their game. Every morning they pester Dave on his morning walk until he comes up with loot.

After a fresh snow is a great time to do your own backyard bird count. We were amazed at the huge jay populations of all three species that inhabit our property: Stellar's, Blue Jay, and Scrub Jays! Dave, in his quest to entertain himself with the jays, noticed the morph in the blue jays. News to me! There is a dark, light, and medium morph here – check out your bird book. And there are so many redwing blackbirds here that they blacken the sky when they are on the move. A robin flock appears to have elected to overwinter here, along with some other birdy species.

El Niño model predictions indicate a rather mild winter including somewhat moderate snow season. And the woolly worm (Bear Worm) agrees. These are not actually worms, but the Isabella tiger moth caterpillar.



We found this guy in the parking lot at the Coney Island hot dog place in Bailey (talk about a King's ransom - \$12.50 for a rather plain hotdog!) According to folk lore, the woolly worms display 13 segments, each corresponding to a week of winter. If a segment is orange or yellow, it will be a mild week. If black, hold onto to your wool hat! If

the backend is black, it will be a hellacious end to winter. And so forth. What can throw you off is that multiple sequential segments are the same color.

Yo, Rudolph!

In a few weeks NORAD will be picking up the trail of Rudolph, his buds, and an exhausted Santa.

Some reindeer facts:

- Reindeer are actually caribou. Caribou is the North American name for reindeer. There are 12 species with two being obsolete. See this gorgeous painting of a reindeer. Artist unknown.
- Both sexes produce antlers that are shed every year in the winter after the rutting season.
- They can be raised domestically or semi-domestically for their meat and very warm hides.
- They have awesome dispositions.
- They are truly Arctic animals, living in the Arctic or adjacent boreal forests all over the northern hemisphere.
- Their eyes change from gold in the summer to blue in the winter.



Now to the cute animated one that we have come to know with its slender smaller body and oh so cute face. There is some truth in Rudolph's bright red nose. Reindeer or caribou have 25% more compacted blood vessels near the surface of their nose than we humans do. And if Rudolph is above normal in nasal blood vessels, there you go! The glowing part is slightly exaggerated.

continued on next page

Wild Side continued from previous page

Holiday Nature Gift Guide

So many choices! The usual bird guidebook and binoculars may kick off one's birdwatching hobby, particularly for children. Other books such as one on mammal scat can keep one occupied for hours while on a hike or on your property. Perhaps one has mused about hummingbirds – many beautiful feeders are available at Amazon, Duncraft, and Wild Birds, Unlimited. Or how about a small, heated birdbath to watch birds all year?

Also, gift certificates to places like Wild Birds Unlimited in Castle Rock will make for an enjoyable shopping experience. Or a gift certificate to the Denver Zoo to see the new flamingo habitat, or the new arrival Siska, first "child" to mom Eirina at the orangutan digs. Another great place to visit is the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, west of Divide, a sanctuary for wolves, some foxes, a couple of coyotes, and a flock of brave or foolish chickens. What a mesmerizing and educational experience. And the gift shop has so many fun items.

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

More Nature Photo Winners

All of these photos are property of the Nature Comedic Photography Awards and span the last seven years.



Short Takes

Renaming wild birds is about to occur with very beautiful birds shedding names of very ugly people, namely racists and slave holders. Some 80 birds, like Wilson's warbler, are subject to this exercise. Opponents wish these efforts instead would be used to save birds, as a 3 million decline has occurred in the last 50 years. As they say, you cannot erase history. I just hope that the old name-new name is cross-referenced for a while for those of us who are a bit slow on learning new things.

Something just came across my desk about JB (Justin Beaver, a baby beaver). This little guy, an orphan, was found, but the wildlife rehab center did not have the facilities to care for him. The family who took him did their best to maintain a people-beaver boundary, so they could reintroduce him to the wild. They brought him branches with lots of leaves for food. They put him in the bathtub multiple times each day. But when JB started chewing on the wood furniture legs, that's when he wore out his welcome.

A friend, who built ponds, put in a stream and a small pond. JB was then in his element! He lived another few years before a bacterial-based form of beaver bloat killed him. Sob.

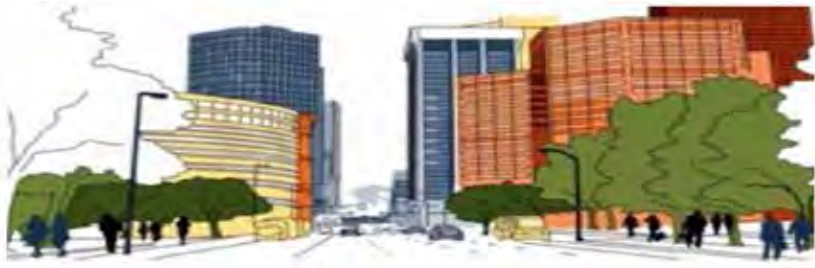
Check out Audubon.com for information on how to participate in the Annual Christmas Bird Count – a great family activity and it isn't even on Christmas.

Here is a shout out with my warmest wishes to all my readers for a fun and rewarding holiday season... and don't forget to put out a little something extra for your birdie friends. You will be greatly rewarded for your efforts with a magnificent display. And your blood pressure will benefit... I will see you in the New Year,



That's all folks for this month. Gotta run...snow means forklifts of bird seed to put outside.

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



WALTSWORDS

By Walt Korinke
Commercial Real Estate
Dec 2023

MORE FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS COMING TO THE AREA:

Castle Pines is finally getting a **McDonald's**, to be built just south of the King Sooper Center at Castle Pines Pkwy and Lagae Road. The 3,900 sq. ft. fast food restaurant will have a dual drive-thru. McDonald's brings the city's fast food total to three, joining the older Wendy's and Subway.



Castle Rock is also getting a 5,140 sq. ft. **McDonalds** at the top of the 5th St. hill at Founder's Pkwy. Planned for over a year, the dirt work has finally begun and they could be ready to serve food when the snow melts. Drive-thru service available 24 hours – 7 days a week!



After almost three years of start and stop, **Castle Rock's** new **Sushi** restaurant is finally progressing well and could be ready for customers by next summer. It is connected to the rear of the historical house on the s/w/c of Jeremy and 3rd St across from the old County Court House and facing the Town Parking Garage.



The Town's second **Chipotle** at the entrance to Sam's Club is scheduled for a next summer opening. Their all-electric energy efficient building plans to offer more vegetarian and vegan menu options with an emphasis on local produce.



continued on next page

On the hill overlooking Chipotle, the new high-end Mexican brewery- restaurant, **Los Dos Portillo**, is under construction. The 331-seat restaurant will include over 6,000 sq. ft. of indoor seating, a 1,041 sq. ft. beer garden and a 1,029 sq. ft. patio area. Working on interior.



Adjacent to the very popular La Loma Mexican restaurant, the groundwork for the new **Brinkerhoff & Bar Hummingbird** restaurant is underway and will complete this portion of the Promenade development.



Now that the 300-unit Alana apartment complex is in the end state of development across the street from Sam's, the remaining site development, **the Lazy Dog Restaurant** has commenced. The 8,000 sq. ft. "pet friendly" eatery has started their ground work indicating a restaurant opening by late next year.



Snarf's "Best Sandwich" shop opened in November just in time to give its new patio a try-out before the first snowfall. You will find it at the north end of Wilcox on the west side of the street (behind the tree).



Monument

Whataburger has started digging at the n/w/c of Jackson Creek Parkway and CR105 with promise to open by year-end!



KFC located at mid-Jackson Creek Pkwy is in the final stage of completion – year end opening?





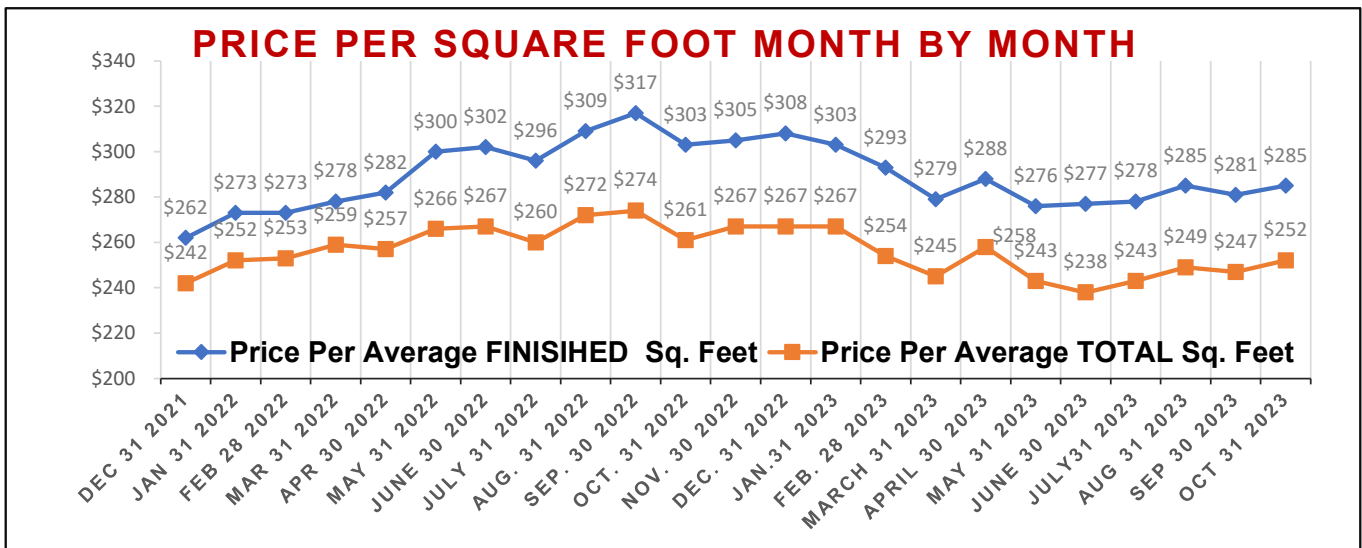
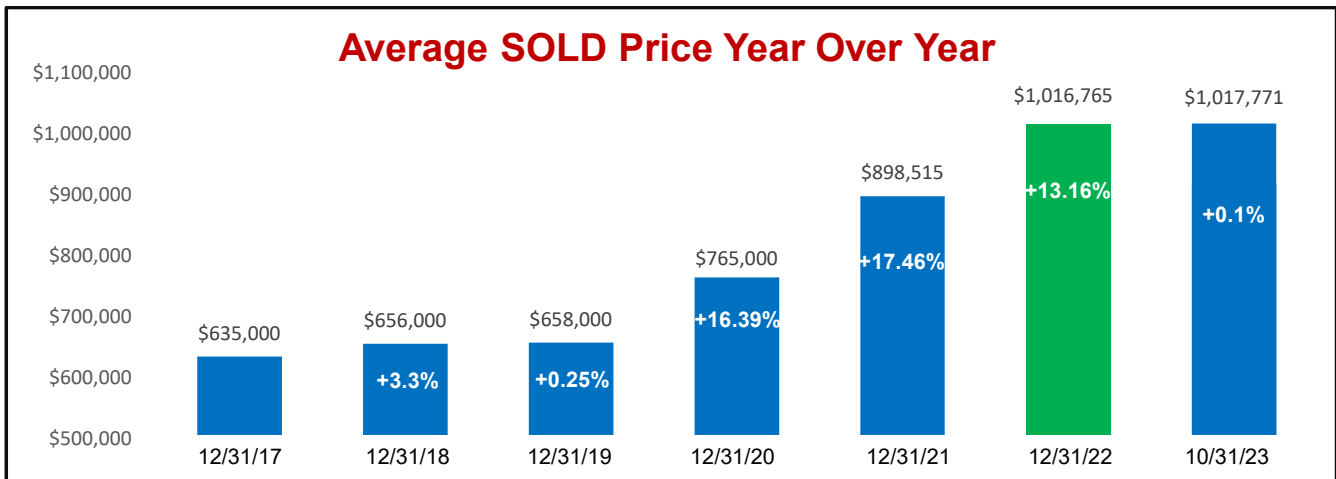
Larkspur Area Real Estate Stats – HOMES SOLD

Homes Currently For-Sale 11/20/2023) ---19 (\$510,000 to \$2,200,000) --- Median \$1,099,900

Average Days on Market --- 86

Homes Currently “Under Contract” --- 12 (\$498,000 to \$1,549,000) --- Median \$1,142,000

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.

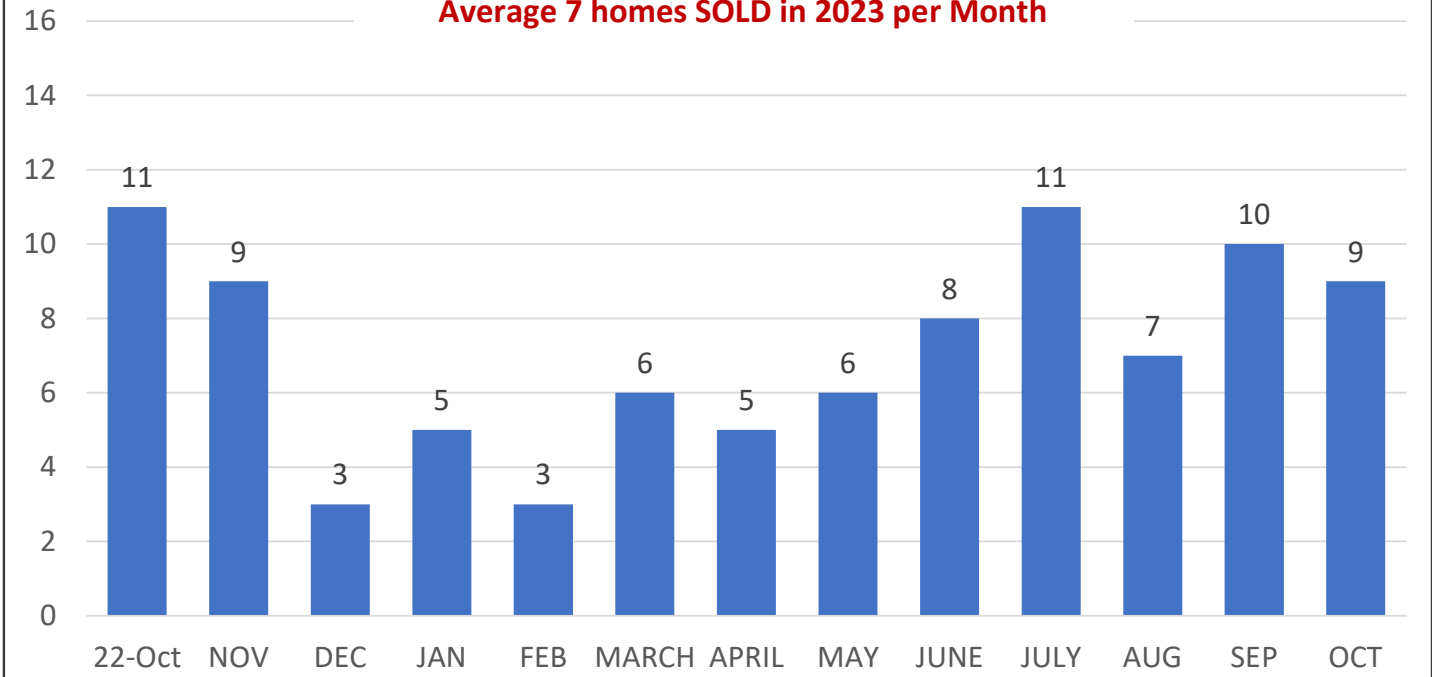
---The above information has been researched from the Metro Denver MLS System (www.REcolorado.com) by **Dave Gardner of Results Realty of Colorado**, located in the Town of Larkspur, CO. It is believed to be accurate but is NOT guaranteed. Every property will have unique factors affecting value such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



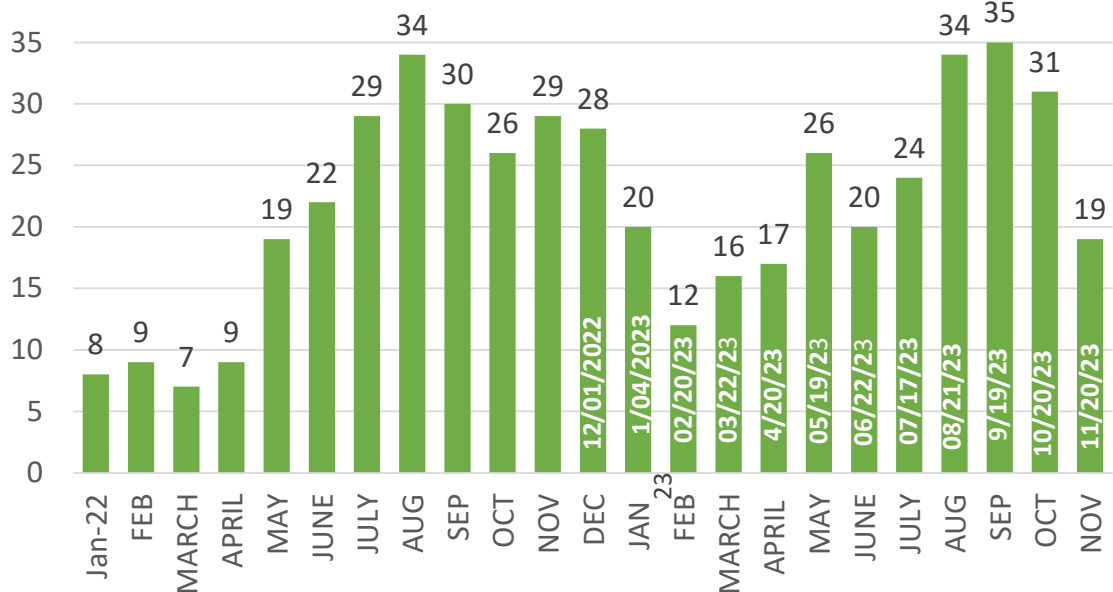
Larkspur Real Estate Stats

2022/2023 Homes SOLD in Larkspur Month by Month

Average 7 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](#)

ADVERTISING RATES

Pricing is for Camera Ready Art

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

Submit ad art to

larkspursentinel@gmail.com

DEADLINES

Articles/Letters/Ad Artwork/Classified Ads
20th of each month

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

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

The Larkspur Sentinel, LLC is a volunteer organization. Any questions, suggestions, ad requests can be emailed to

larkspursentinel@gmail.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

SECURITY DOORS & RETRACTABLE SCREENS: for sale along with screen repair in the Larkspur area. Call Jack Hoyt **719-231-1719**.

COLORADO MASTICATION: fire mitigation, scrub oak removal, lot and brush clearing.
719-400-9104

NOTARY SERVICES available in the Perry Park/Larkspur areas. Dakota Hoyt **719-671-3720**.

SPRAYTECH: preventive beetle spraying, noxious weed control, tree spraying for insects & diseases, tree deep root watering & fertilizing. **720-248-0000**

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

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

Letters should be limited to 300 words. Because of space limitation and legal ramifications, we reserve the right to edit any submitted material and cannot assure that submissions will be printed verbatim or unedited.

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

larkspursentinel@gmail.com.

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