

LARKSPUR SENTINEL

NOVEMBER 2024



Serving the 80118 community



ELIZABETH OWENS



THE RE/MAX COLLECTION

Broker / Owner - RE/MAX Alliance - 7437 Village Square Drive, Suite 105, Castle Pines, CO 80108
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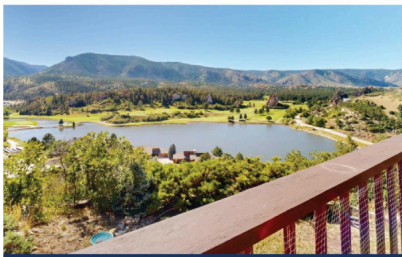
4593 MOHAWK DRIVE | PERRY PARK | JUST SOLD! | \$1,050,000



6328 S PIKE DRIVE | PERRY PARK | SOLD! | \$865,000



5269 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE | PERRY PARK | UNDER CONTRACT! | OFFERED AT \$1,170,000



6301 PERRY PARK BLVD, #13 | ECHO HILLS | OFFERED AT \$619,900



6305 APACHE DRIVE | PERRY PARK | OFFERED AT \$775,000



4147 LARKSPUR LANE | LARKSPUR | SOLD! | \$865,000

ELIZABETH OWENS has a reputation centered on residential, high-end and acreage properties in Larkspur, Castle Rock and throughout Douglas County. For the past 20+ 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! →



A note from the Publisher and Editor

Larkspur Sentinel

Happy Thanksgiving from the Larkspur Sentinel!

November is here, bringing in the season of gratitude and connection—and living in Larkspur gives us much to be thankful for. Below are the things that top our list. What would you add to yours?

1. An abundance of trails and open spaces: We're lucky here in Larkspur to have access to so many different trails and open spaces. Sandstone Ranch Open Space...Spruce Mountain Open Space...the Frink Trail...the open air and miles of sunny trails are something we can all be thankful for. Savor it. Drink it in.

2. Frequent wildlife sightings: From bears to bobcats, turkeys, and foxes, there is never a shortage of wildlife to experience in Larkspur...even right in “downtown” Larkspur!

3. The quiet life: While the elk bugling can keep one up at night this time of year, there's nothing like the peace and quiet that many of us enjoy here in Larkspur. Just drive into the city to give a fresh perspective needed to truly enjoy the quiet of our community.

4. Good local food: Our restaurants offer more than just great meals—they're places to connect, warm up, and share a laugh with neighbors. Whether you're indulging in comfort food or stopping in for a quick coffee, these small businesses are at the heart of our town.

5. Vibrant community events: For such a small town, Larkspur has a dynamic lineup of community events. Looking for holiday events? Mark your calendars to join the Veterans Day celebration in November and the Christmas tree lighting event in December.

We're grateful for you, our readers, for allowing us to be part of your life and community. Thank you for supporting the Larkspur Sentinel. Wishing you and your family a joyful Thanksgiving!

Kate Wessels
Kate Wessels, Editor

Stephanie Y. Deininger
Stephanie Y. Deininger, Publisher

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Share your best Larkspur photos!

NOVEMBER 2024 Cover



Cover Picture By:
RUTH SONKE

Submit your photo to
larkspursentinel@gmail.com
for a chance to see it on the
front cover.
Rules & Info on our website

What's Going On?

November 11: Veterans Day Event 11 a.m. at Larkspur Veterans Monument in Larkspur Community Park

November 12: Larkspur Planning Commission Meeting [INFO](#) 5-6:30 p.m. at Town Hall

November 12: Larkspur Chamber of Commerce Monthly Mixer [INFO](#) 5:30 p.m. Theatre of Dreams (Castle Rock)

November 13: Perry Park Water and Sanitation District Meeting [INFO](#) 2 p.m. at 5676 Red Rock Drive

November 14: Perry Park Metro District Meeting [INFO](#) 6-9 p.m. at Perry Park Country Club

November 14: Larkspur Fire Protection District Board Meeting [INFO](#) 6 p.m. at LFPD Station 161

November 19: Larkspur Town Council Public Budget Hearing [INFO](#) 5-6 p.m. at Town Hall

November 21: Larkspur Water & Sewer Meeting [INFO](#) 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Town Hall

November 21: Larkspur Town Council Reception with Elected Douglas County Officials [INFO](#) 6-8 p.m. at Town Hall

SAVE THE DATE!

Dec. 7: Larkspur Elementary Holiday Bazaar 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Larkspur Elementary School

Dec. 7: Holiday Magic Happens Tree Lights 4 p.m. in Larkspur Community Park

**All dates are 2024 unless otherwise noted*

Interested in adding your upcoming Larkspur event? Email larkspursentinel@gmail.com with the subject "LARKSPUR EVENT." All events must be open to the public and community-focused.

Backyard posers

Mike Riebau, Contributor

Thanks to Mike Riebau for submitting these photos of Larkspur wildlife!



Hummingbird.



Lazuli bunting.

Town of Larkspur update

Sherilyn West, Mayor

Town of Larkspur



IMPORTANT UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024: In a final ruling from the court, a judge handed down a decision on the civil complaint against the town by the owner and developer of the proposed travel center; the decision concluded that the town's decision to reject the planner's report and addendum made at its October 19, 2023 meeting is **AFFIRMED**. The planner had ruled the travel center a use by right in the commercial district; the town had rejected his report saying it was not a use by right. The plaintiffs' (owner and developer's) claim pursuant to C.R.C.P. 106 is hereby **DISMISSED**. The town is pleased with this ruling.

VETERANS DAY: If you are a veteran, please see the enclosed flyer and consider joining us at 11 a.m. on November 11 for our honoring ceremony being held at the Larkspur Veterans Monument in Larkspur Community Park. We look forward to meeting you! All members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend to help salute our veterans. The ceremony will include a Color Guard, three cannon salute, and some light refreshments.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS: Preparations continue to move steadily forward for Holiday Magic Happens in Larkspur Community Park. On December 7, the evening festivities will conclude with the lighting of over 60 trees, which will make our magnificent park come alive with lights throughout the holiday season. Trees are still available to decorate and sponsor; please mark your calendars and plan to attend on December 7!

The advertisement for Altitude Futures has a blue background. On the left, it says "NOW is the time to diversify your investments and maximize profits in the futures markets!" followed by three bullet points: "Looking for an investment alternative that is completely independent of stock market fluctuations?", "Concerned about another sudden stock market correction resulting in 401K nest egg losses?", and "Interested in the potential to make money when prices go up or down?". A large blue arrow points to the right, containing the text "We're Local! Find out how easy it is to GET STARTED TODAY! Visit us at altitudefutures.com or call 720.969.7687". On the right side, there is a logo with a bar chart and the text "ALTITUDE FUTURES" above a scenic photograph of a mountain range with a lake in the foreground.

NOW is the time to diversify your investments and maximize profits in the futures markets!

- ▶ Looking for an investment alternative that is completely independent of stock market fluctuations?
- ▶ Concerned about another sudden stock market correction resulting in 401K nest egg losses?
- ▶ Interested in the potential to make money when prices go up or down?

We're Local!
Find out how easy it is to **GET STARTED TODAY!**
Visit us at altitudefutures.com
or call **720.969.7687**

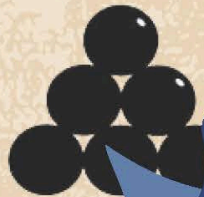
There is significant risk involved in trading futures. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

ALTITUDE FUTURES



VETERANS

DAY



11.11.2024

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

11:00 CELEBRATION

Color Guard ★ Ceremony ★ Cannons ★ Refreshments

**Larkspur Veterans Monument
8820 Spruce Mountain Road, Larkspur, CO 80118**

www.townoflarkspur.org

A fiery flying fortress: The 1944 tale of a B-17 bomber crash

Kate Wessels, Editor

Larkspur Sentinel

As Americans recognize the sacrifices of the nation's veterans this month, recognition is also due for those who never made it home.

In the oak-tangled hills behind Perry Park, there lies a hidden secret largely unknown to many of Larkspur's residents.

For 80 years, Pike National Forest has been home to the resting place for a downed B-17 bomber that crashed on February 26, 1944. Ten service members lost their lives when the plane crashed on a training run during World War II.

The Larkspur Historical Society brought the story of the B-17 bomber to life during a free community presentation at Perry Park Country Club on October 17.

The downed B-17 was one of the first B-17s that was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Corps (which later became the U.S. Air Force) for combat service during World War II. B-17s, also known as "flying fortresses" would bomb from 11,000-20,000 feet. They would fly in a flight formation with 12 planes at each level, stacked 4-6 columns high.

On February 26, 1944, a B-17 based at Clovis Army Air Field in New Mexico departed on a training mission. The intent was to conduct a heavy bomber high altitude navigation combat training mission between Clovis and Lowry Field in Denver, returning to Clovis over the foothills.

Weather conditions were listed as very unfavorable and included snow and wind. Within 20 minutes after leaving Lowry, Lowry lost contact with the plane. It is believed the plane crashed at 9:40 p.m. amid blizzard conditions.

Due to the challenging conditions in the foothills, recovery was not possible until later that spring. On a routine patrol on May 20, 1944, civil air patrol saw a glint that was thought to be coming off of metal in the hills behind what was known at that time as Perry Park Ranch. Peterson Army Air Base sent a mission via horseback. The team discovered the wreck, and saw that all 10 crew members were deceased. At the time, they were able to take eight bodies back on horseback; two were too badly burned that Peterson had to send another crew to go back and retrieve them when they returned to recover the machine guns from the plane.

The military summation of the crash noted that all four engines were apparently operating on the plane at the time of the crash. The military investigator speculated that the plane had stalled and entered a spin, and that ice build-up on the wings likely contributed to the crash. Examination revealed that the plane had exploded and burned when it crashed.

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On this Veterans Day, we pause to remember the names of those lost in this crash in the hills behind Perry Park:

Pilot: 2nd Lt. Joseph J. Beeson Jr. of Washington DC
Co-Pilot: 2nd Lt. Harry B. Davis of Philadelphia, PA
Navigator: 2nd Lt. Harry L. Barry of Columbus, OH
Bombardier: 2nd Lt. Jack T. Laird of Klamath Falls, OR
Engineer: FO Fred Gentry of Decatur, ILL
Gunner: Cpl. Ralph C. Judah of Iola, KS
Gunner: Cpl. James F. Perry of Charlotte, NC
Gunner: Cpl. Joseph J. Fendrick of Queens, NY
Gunner: Cpl. Glenn L. Stutsman of Washington, IO
Gunner: Cpl. James R. Young of Port Arthur, TX

While remnants of the crash site remain to this day, the route to reach them is undefined and incredibly challenging to navigate through. Hikers will encounter house-sized boulders, downed trees, and incredibly tangled thickets of scrub oak.

The Larkspur Historical Society hosts regular presentations covering local Larkspur history. For more information, visit their [Facebook page](#).



*Photos of the B-17 crash site taken summer 2011.
Used with photographer permission.*

Radium update from Perry Park Water and Sanitation District

Brian Arthurs, Director

Perry Park Water and Sanitation District



On October 23, the Perry Park Water and Sanitation District (PPWSD) received notification from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) that a recent radium violation has been rescinded. The violation, issued on September 11, no longer stands. The PPWSD and board will continue to provide updates as we receive more information.

Radium in our water: A proactive approach

PPWSD is committed to providing safe drinking water. Recent testing identified elevated levels of radium in our water supply. This is not an immediate health crisis, but we believe transparency is essential. This update outlines the issue, timeline, actions we're taking, and options for you.

Understanding radium

- Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive element found in trace amounts in soil and water.
- It cannot be seen, tasted, or smelled.
- Long-term exposure to elevated levels may increase the risk of certain cancers.
- The federal drinking water standard for combined radium 226/228, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), is 5 pCi/L.

PPWSD actions

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets a safe drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for radium of 5.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) averaged over the current and previous 3 quarter periods. PPWSD has never exceeded 5 pCi/L previously.

- **May 22:** Sample submitted for testing had annual average radium level of 3.4 pCi/L.
- **August 14:** Quarterly water samples submitted for testing.
- **September 5:** Results reported to CDPHE; result was 12.9 pCi/L at the entry point.
- **September 11:** CDPHE notified PPWSD of a radium violation requiring customer notification within 30 days.
- **September 18:** PPWSD Board reviewed the violation and directed strict adherence to CDPHE guidelines for notification letter to residents. Additional testing was ordered to confirm the initial result.
- **September 19:** All wells were resampled.
- **October 2:** Notification letter sent to residents.
- **October 15:** Resample result received and posted on the PPWSD website; result was 5.6 pCi/L at the entry point.
- **October 16:** Board meeting to discuss results, next steps, and address concerns.

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- **October 23:** CDPHE determined the violation issued September 11 has been rescinded along with public notice requirements. The Notice of Violation Rescind is available on [the PPWSD website](#).
- **October 24:** Notice of Violation Rescind posted to local social media sites.

PPWSD treatment measures

- Current: Potassium permanganate is used to oxidize and solidify dissolved radium for filtration.
- Potential addition: Magnesium dioxide may be implemented to enhance radium removal through increased surface area for filtration. CDPHE approval is required (estimated 6-12 months).
- Ongoing monitoring: We will continue regular testing and adjust well pumping rates, water source blending, and potassium permanganate levels as needed.

Your options for reducing radium exposure

- Water softeners: Some softeners can effectively reduce radium.
- Reverse osmosis systems: These systems effectively remove radium through filtration.
- Distillation: This process removes radium from water vapor.
- Bottled water: Using bottled water from a reputable source can be a temporary solution.

Additional considerations

- Consult your medical professional if you are elderly, pregnant, have infants, or have existing health concerns.
- Verify the accuracy of social media posts by unaffiliated authors.
- Monitor the [PPWSD website](#) for timely updates.

The PPWSD Board of Directors has a duty to be transparent, accessible, and accountable to the community. This means actively engaging with residents through clear communication channels, providing timely updates on water quality, infrastructure projects, and any potential issues. Regular meetings are always open to the public, with clear agendas and minutes published promptly. PPWSD will strive to improve and sustain an environment where concerns can be expressed and addressed openly.

The PPWSD board and staff understand your concerns and prioritize safe drinking water. We are working diligently to address this issue. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

October 23, 2024

DIANA MILLER
PERRY PARK WSD - PWSID CO0118045
5676 WEST RED ROCK DR
LARKSPUR CO 80118

Notice of Violation Rescind

Dear DIANA MILLER:

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“Department”) records, **PERRY PARK WSD** (“Supplier”) was notified of a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation (dated September 11, 2024) where the Supplier had not met a requirement of the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations (“Regulation 11”), 5 CCR 1002-11.

Since that time, the Department has determined the Supplier met the requirement. Therefore, the violation issued on September 11, 2024 has been rescinded along with any public notice requirements.

If there are any questions regarding the contents of this letter and/or requirements for the Supplier, please contact your compliance specialist:

Lindsey Fettig
720-507-7095
lindsey.fettig@state.co.us

ec:

DIANA MILLER - DMILLER_PPWSD@COMCAST.NET; AC
SCOTT MONROE - WILLSEMOCOR@HOTMAIL.COM; OPERATOR
WILL S PARKER - WILLSEMOCOR@HOTMAIL.COM; OPERATOR
SKYLER SICARD - SSICARD@DOUGLAS.CO.US; DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OFFICE EMAIL - EH@DOUGLAS.CO.US; DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

File: CO0118045, DOUGLAS COUNTY, COMMUNITY - GROUNDWATER UDI SURFACE
WATER

4300 Cherry Creek Drive S., Denver, CO 80246-1530 cdphe.colorado.gov/water-quality
Jared S. Polis, Governor; Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH, Executive Director



Larkspur Fire Protection District marks one year with Chief Timothy McCawley

Wayne Moore, Secretary–Board of Directors
Larkspur Fire Protection District



In recognition of Chief Timothy McCawley's year of service with the Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD), I wanted the chief to express his perspective on leading the district. He has facilitated change in many areas which has benefited operational functionality, firefighter staffing, training, and services for our community.

1. What captured your interest in pursuing being chief of LFPD?

When looking at coming to Larkspur Fire, I was intrigued by the community. Having taught a class or two for some folks who worked here, I felt it was an area I would love to be a part of. My family and I love being outdoors, and this area offers many opportunities to be in open spaces. I am always most interested in caring for the people who work under me and ensuring they have the training, tools, and support they need to meet all the community's needs on their worst day. We have an exceptional staff, and I am honored to lead them as we embark on this next journey of our organization serving this great community.



Chief Tim McCawley. Photo courtesy of LFPD.

2. In your first year as chief, is there an event or circumstance that stands out to you that solidified this is where you want to be?

Over the last year, I have gotten to know the staff and many community members. The moments I loved most were Christmas and the 4th of July holidays. I am so excited that our department helped deliver Santa Claus for the town events at the park. I am ecstatic that we were so involved in the Fourth of July and want to continue to grow these opportunities that we have to be out helping our citizens enjoy our great area.

3. If you had unlimited resources to draw from, what is your vision of how LFPD would be seen five years from now?

I continue to instill in our staff that we are here to protect the community from the tragedies that may occur on any given day. I am so proud of our staff's hard work and the amount of training they complete to be as professional and, in some cases, even better than many metro departments around Colorado. I want to continue to support our staff in building the next level of training and education in the future, continuing to be a leader of the fire service community, and delivering outstanding service to our citizens. We have excellent staff, and I

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want them to be as well-trained as possible, making the next generation of firefighters the best yet.

4. What obstacles or challenges does LFPD face in fulfilling this vision?

Our most significant future challenge is how we continue to pay for the excellent service we provide. There have been many changes to how our legislative body in Colorado has tried to change how taxes are determined, and every time, they cut back on districts like ours. I know we have to be good stewards of our communities. Still, we also have to be honest with them and explain that our services are complex to maintain when our budget is seeing relatively flat growth compared to the rapid increase in cost throughout the fire service. This situation complicates providing a high level of service for our citizens now.

5. How do you foresee overcoming these challenges?

We can only overcome many of these challenges by continuing to educate. We need to educate ourselves on what services the community feels are required, needed, or optional regarding what we provide. We must educate our citizens on what we need to provide those services. They should better understand how we get our money and what items cost in the fire service to help them understand why our needs are so critical. We want to be a great partner for the community and continue to be a big part of the community, developing into the incredible place that drew me to be a local leader here.

The bulletin board

Larkspur Sentinel

An informative bulletin of events from our local non-profits and local community groups.





Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa, or glass of wine as you shop, as well as some Christmas snacks for sale also!

Door Prizes every hour !



News from the Perry Park Metropolitan District

Steve Ostrowski, Director & Secretary
Perry Park Metropolitan District



Hello Perry Park Metropolitan District (PPMD) residents,

We are now in our budgetary cycle, and have held our initial workshops for the 2025 budget. We recently completed a reserve study, which assesses our expected future costs in our community, and showed that we have a good level of reserves for pursuing projects and continued maintenance. The PPMD has done well over the years in fiscal conservatism, leaving us in a good current position financially, and the reserve study gives the board more confidence in pursuing projects. You can view our calendar and meetings on our website at perryparkmd.colorado.gov/ to catch up on regular and special meetings.

Our Roads Committee will discuss the recurring issue of speeding in our neighborhood, especially down Red Rock Drive. While PPMD does not have jurisdiction on speeding enforcement (that is a Douglas County responsibility) we are looking to see if there is anything else that we can do to help. PPMD has investigated this issue multiple times in the past, and the results from county assessment and other communities is that there is not an easy answer to controlling speeding.

We recently started a fire mitigation program with Dove Creek Forestry who won our bid process; the Big D area was one of the top priorities which has been mitigated. Mitigation will continue on our PPMD properties over time and we will communicate when possible and informed any safety concerns. When you see mitigation equipment, it is dangerous heavy machinery, so please stay far away from working crews.

The status of other current topics on the board include:

- **Wauconda Park plan:** The UC Denver group is preparing their final report on the concept and estimated concept for park improvements, which the board will continue to discuss in potential budget cycles and with further community input.
- **Entryway improvements:** After exploration of cheaper options for undergrounding power line poles, we have not found a solution with enough board support to approve; the committee is suspending the pursuit of undergrounding. We are still awaiting a decision from Colorado to designate our Gateway Pond as a fire suppression pond.

Our November board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 at 6 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 perrypark.org.

Follow us: facebook.com/perryparkmetro and nextdoor.com/g/6vaja7i6t

Thank you on behalf of the PPMD Board of Directors.

Perry Park wildfire mitigation projects in progress

Keith Worley

Perry Park Metropolitan District Firewise Committee

The Perry Park Metropolitan District (PPMD) recently awarded a contract to Dove Creek Forestry (DCF) for wildfire mitigation on a portion of its open space properties. Six parcels are in the current contract. DCF also bid on the remaining parcels that need some level of re-treatment since initial mitigation was done in 2010-2012.

These re-entries are intended to:

- Re-mow Gambel oak that has begun to fill in openings.
- Remove severely drought stressed and dying oak clumps.
- Widen treatment areas to connect to homeowner defensible spaces and rock formations.
- Clear out dead pines and Douglas-firs.
- Reduce ladder fuels and fuel continuity.
- Establish a long-term maintenance program in Gambel oak areas, usually every three years, as an extension of its current oak re-mow program.

In the interim, PPMD, in partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), has already submitted a third grant application for additional funding to help offset costs. However, grant funding is highly competitive, and waiting for grant monies has already delayed implementation of the PPMD 5-year mitigation plan by two years. The board will consider using its reserves, established by previous boards, to keep the program on track.

A concern was raised recently that PPMD had not kept up with mitigating its properties over the past 10 years. Being a new resident, this person was not aware of the time and effort that went into removing all the dead trees from the 2014-2015 tussock moth epidemic, and the wildfire threat these posed to Perry Park. Three years of partnership with CSFS and expenditure of over \$1.1 million addressed this more immediate concern, and now allows PPMD to continue its mitigation program as planned.

Current projects may abut properties in the following areas:

- Big D
- Fox Circle
- Fox Way/South Pike
- Apache/Pike Circle
- Winged Foot/Apache

Randy Johnson, recently retired from his LFPD fire marshal position, will be overseeing the projects. He will also be looking for opportunities to treat PPMD properties to enhance residents' mitigation efforts and defensible spaces, and may be reaching out to individual residents. Please contact him at wildfirerisk@pm.me with questions.

News from Larkspur Elementary School

Larkspur Elementary School



Dear Larkspur community,

Our students have been busy and having fun this fall! This month, our Bobcats participated in our Fall Green Apple Day—a wonderful occasion for students, parents, and community members to come together and beautify our campus. Each grade level was assigned a different area, and everyone worked diligently to spruce it up!

Our fourth graders engaged in an in-depth lesson on recycling and waste management. They took a close look at cafeteria waste, analyzing how much recyclable material was discarded, the true waste produced, and the amount of food waste generated during one lunch period. This hands-on experience not only taught them valuable lessons about recycling but also highlighted the importance of waste reduction—especially relevant as we currently provide bottled water for staff and students until our water supply is confirmed safe.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our first annual Holiday Bazaar on December 7! This family-friendly, free event will feature over 50 vendors, which is perfect for getting everyone into the holiday spirit. Enjoy delicious offerings from food trucks while you shop! The bazaar is open to the public and runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 7.

We still have sponsorship opportunities available for both businesses and families for the bazaar—no amount is too small! Tax donation receipts will be provided by the school. For more information about sponsorship, please get in touch with us at larkspurholidaybazaar@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Bazaar!



Pop quiz: Which side of the road is “right?”

Larkspur Sentinel

Last month’s article about walking in Perry Park generated some feedback and questions. A common question is whether there a correct side of the road to walk or jog on.

In Colorado, **walkers and joggers are only allowed to travel on the left side of the road**, which means you should always be facing traffic.

However, **bicyclists travel on the right side of the road** in the same direction as traffic (to read the full statutes, they are respectively [Colorado Revised Statute, Title 42 Vehicles and Traffic, Section 42-4-805](#) and [Section 42-4-1412](#)).

Bicyclists are afforded a three foot separation between the cyclist and driver (see [Colorado Revised Statute, Title 42 Vehicles and Traffic, Section 42-4-1003](#)).

According to Douglas County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO), there are no local ordinances that require the same three foot separation between drivers and walkers. DCSO says that although there is no exactly comparable law, drivers “must still drive with due regard for all attendant circumstances,” and “if safe to do so, [vehicles] would be allowed to cross a marked line to provide a buffer and would be covered under this statute” (see [Colorado Revised Statute, Title 42 Vehicles and Traffic, Section 42-4-1402](#)).

With so many walkers in the Larkspur community, it’s crucial to be aware while driving and prioritize pedestrian safety. Here are some reminders from the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles:

**Window Washing
Screen Cleaning & Repair**

**Free Quotes!
(720)821-0588**



Locally Owned and Operated

continued from previous page

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable users of our roadways. They are people who are standing, walking, running or using mobility aids on public streets, highways and private property. As a driver, it is your responsibility to watch out for pedestrians because motor vehicles are heavy objects that can cause serious injuries or death.

Here are some more things to remember to help keep pedestrians safe:

- Do not assume that pedestrians can hear or see your vehicle or any visual or audible crossing signals as some pedestrians may be deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or blind.
- Follow the speed limit or drive at a slower speed when necessary to help you to see and respond to pedestrians.
- Remember, some pedestrians like children or people using wheelchairs have a lower profile.
- Pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections and crosswalks, even if the lines are not marked or painted. Drivers must yield or come to a complete stop to let pedestrians pass safely.
- Look for pedestrians at all intersections, especially if you are turning.
- While turning at a red light, make sure you are in the correct lane and come to a complete stop. Check for pedestrians in all directions to make sure your path is clear before moving forward to check for vehicle traffic.
- Do not stop with any portion of your vehicle covering the crosswalk area.
- Watch for pedestrians entering or exiting their cars while passing parked vehicles.
- Drive very cautiously around schools, parks, parking lots, bus stops and special events where pedestrians are likely to be present.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk because the driver may be stopping for pedestrians that you can't see.
- Check blind spots and mirrors while backing your car out of a parking space or driveway.

The bulletin board

Larkspur Sentinel

An informative bulletin of events from our local non-profits and local community groups.



Acton Hybrid Academy
Tuesday & Thursday homeschool
support and enrichment program

We meet 8:45-3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and
Thursdays from August- May in Castle Rock
For more information and enrollment info
please contact Colleen Sprister @
csprister@actonhybrid.com



Need a Little Help This Month?
Food Bank & Care Center - Free

By Appointment
Contact us at - gethelp@larkspur.church
77 Perry Park Avenue, Larkspur

LARKSPUR
CHURCH



Crystal Valley interchange project update

Town of Castle Rock

The Town of Castle Rock celebrated the town's top transportation priority—the Crystal Valley interchange project—with a ceremonial groundbreaking on September 26. Once completed, the new Interstate 25 Exit 179 and Crystal Valley Parkway interchange will improve safety and mobility in the surrounding community and provide a key regional transportation link from I-25 to southern Castle Rock and Douglas County.

Since the start of work this spring, crews have made substantial progress on the east side of I-25, including building and paving the new roundabout intersection, relocating Douglas Lane, constructing the new East Frontage Road north and south of Crystal Valley Parkway and beginning bridge foundation work.

Major earthwork operations have started on the west side of I-25 to support new Dawson Trail Boulevard construction and initial work to build the new bridge over the BNSF railroad and I-25. The next phase of the project will focus on bridge foundation work in the median of I-25, ramp construction on either side of the interstate and continuing work on the neighboring roads that will connect to the future interchange.

This November, the Crystal Valley interchange project will reach a major milestone when the new portion of the East Frontage Road and roundabout intersection at Crystal Valley Parkway opens up to traffic after a weekend-long closure to tie in the connecting roadways. Relocating the East Frontage Road and Crystal Valley Parkway interchange to the east allows the new bridge over I-25 and connecting northbound I-25 on and off-ramps to be constructed.

To be notified ahead of the upcoming weekend-long closure of a portion of the East Frontage Road, sign up for email project updates at [CRgov.com/CVI](https://www.crgov.com/CVI).



*Aerial photo of the Crystal Valley interchange project area taken September 26.
Photo courtesy of Town of Castle Rock.*

Douglas Land Conservancy honors conservation heroes

*Richard Bangs, Member–Board of Directors
Douglas Land Conservancy*



Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC) has created a new award to honor those who make exceptional efforts to maintain or enhance the conservation values of property they own or manage.

Conserving open space is a team effort. During its more than 37 years in existence, DLC has worked with many organizations and individuals to build its portfolio of more than 27,000 acres of preserved land.

Part of DLC's mandate as an accredited land trust is to monitor each of its easements annually to ensure the conservation values are maintained. It compares conservation values it sees with prior years' monitoring reports and a survey taken before any easement is granted. That monitoring is made possible, in part, by a fund dedicated to a stewardship program.

But there is another aspect to preserving land that sometimes goes unrecognized: The everyday task of protecting conservation values on a continuing basis.

The first Annual Mel Sorensen Stewardship Award will go to Chris Hashimoto and Dale Ferg, who have been judged by DLC staff as people who go above and beyond normal activities to protect the conservation values of their land. DLC Board President Alan Clarke praised the property owners for their efforts.

“When caring and committed landowners such as Chris and Dale take the initiative to maintain or enhance the conservation values of their property, they set an example for future stewards of the land to follow and ensure a healthy habitat for the plants and animals for generations to come,” Clarke said.

DLC staff made the award recommendation to the DLC Board of Directors, and the board approved the selection. Staff noted that Hashimoto and Ferg obtained grants for fire mitigation work near the main house and removal of trees affected by pine beetle and lightning strikes. Scrub oak and understory have been removed or thinned on other areas of the property, but for the most part, left in natural condition for wildlife habitat. They also maintain a man-made pond and a cistern near the main house, and they maintain bluebird houses and many bird feeders on the property. The pair also hand pull and mow extensive pastures for weed control.

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This annual award will consider many aspects of land stewardship. In some cases, a good steward can be a public official who looks after preserved property or promotes good conservation practices. It could be a private entity or public agency that educates people on conservation practices. And often it will be the people living on the land every day. This level of stewardship plays deeply in ensuring that land remains quality open space. Without this help, DLC's task would be much harder. The Annual Mel Sorensen Stewardship Award will recognize and honor these people.

The award also honors Sorensen, a founding board member of DLC. In his retirement he has backed DLC in many ways, including supporting the stewardship fund. He has given his endorsement to this award. DLC board and staff are very grateful to Sorensen for his generosity and his support of taking care of the open spaces of Douglas County and beyond.

Douglas Land Conservancy is a non-profit land trust based in Castle Rock. For more information, visit douglaslandconservancy.org.



Thinning trees, controlling scrub oak and mowing can enhance fire mitigation, help control weeds and improve wildlife habitat of open spaces. Photo by Rich Bangs.

November sunshine, fall clean-up

*Nicole Markland, Colorado Master Gardener
Douglas County CSU Extension Office*

Winter is right around the corner, and many of us start to shift our focus from the outdoors and outdoor projects to the warmth of the indoors, the holiday season, and gatherings with friends and loved ones. More than likely, the garden is the last thing on your mind right now--but do not put the garden tools away just yet. The weather along the Front Range during the fall can be quite unpredictable but can offer us chances to get late season yard chores done. With beautiful November Colorado blue skies comes mild, warm and sunny days that can make a gardener daydream about ripening late season vegetables on the vine. That same sky can later turn cloudy, cold and snowy, effectively ending the growing season within a 24-hour period. By now, most gardens have stopped producing -- but there are some gardens with cold hardy plants producing the last bits of fall blooms in a season finale of color. Spinach, broccoli, and beets are a few of the classics that can extend the season of fresh vegetables. If you are anything like me, accepting the end of the growing season is bittersweet, and I try to squeeze the last bits of summer activity as late into fall as possible.



Photo by John Murgel.

If you are not quite ready to put the tools away either, the mild weather days in November offer us opportunities to do some garden clean up, planting, and winter preparation. When spring comes, you will thank yourself later for checking these tasks off your list now. Let's get started.

One of the best things you can do for your garden is to pull up and throw any plants and weeds that have pests or are diseased in the trash. Many pest insects and plant diseases overwinter on plant debris, so cleaning up any obvious sources of next year's infestation can help a lot! Other insects overwinter (as adults, pupae, larvae, or eggs) in the soil—grasshopper eggs and stink bugs can be destroyed over the winter by tilling garden beds like the vegetable patch.

Once those have been cleared from the area, work some compost into the soil and mulch the top. If the ground is not frozen and still workable, there is still a chance to get spring blooming bulbs in the ground. Plant the bulbs to their required depth—usually 2-3 times the height of the bulb—and water very well. Cover them with mulch to cut back on early arrivals

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Photo by John Murgel.

in spring. A mulch of shredded leaves can be a great way to re-purpose the bounty than falls on the lawn!

Lastly, if you have trees and shrubs with dead limbs and branches, this is a good time to prune or cut them out. Taking care of this task can help reduce winter damage and keeping them can hinder new growth and healthy branches. It is important to cut away only dead material and not cut into live plant tissue. Pruning live branches in the late fall can delay winter hardiness. Watering trees and shrubs during the winter is important to

their health and growth, water them regularly during dry spells when temperatures are about 40F.

LARKSPUR ELEMENTARY HOLIDAY BAZAAR

LARKSPUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 7, 2024
10AM - 4PM

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

WE NEED YOU! LOOKING FOR CRAFTS, FOOD, JEWELRY HOME DECOR, CLOTHING, CANDLES, SOAPS AND SO MUCH MORE!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP TO BE A VENDOR OR A SPONSOR CONTACT
LARKSPURHOLIDAYBAZAAR@GMAIL.COM

Larkspur Historical Society

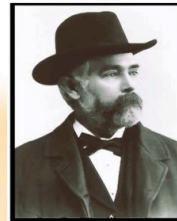
Larkspur Historical Society thanks all of you who have attended some of our walks, tours, and programs in 2024. We sincerely enjoyed conducting those for you and plan similar events for 2025 ...most about the Larkspur area and southern Douglas County.



2024 Walks : Larkspur's Spruce Mountain Road & Old Town



Earth, Wind, & Fire



William Dillon
1850 - 1935

The Amazing Women of Sandstone Ranch



2024 Programs



Watch our December Larkspur Sentinel for more information about what Larkspur Historical Society will be doing in 2025. If you have any suggestions on walks, tours, or programs that you would like Larkspur Historical Society to host in 2025, email: lschlupp@comcast.net.



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The voice of history of southern Douglas County & Divide Country

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MITIGATION OF GAMBEL OAKS: mastication, lot clearing, excavation, material hauling.
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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.
www.treesandweeds.com **720-248-0000**

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

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Submit ad art to
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15 of each month

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

READY TO BUILD 1 ACRE VACANT LOT in Perry Park for sale. Call **303-681-4460**

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It's time to spray your

Pine or Spruce trees or other evergreens!

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Call us today at **303-885-3800** for a free estimate on all your tree and lawn needs.

Knothead Tree and Lawn Care is a TCIA member and an ISA certification Arborist.

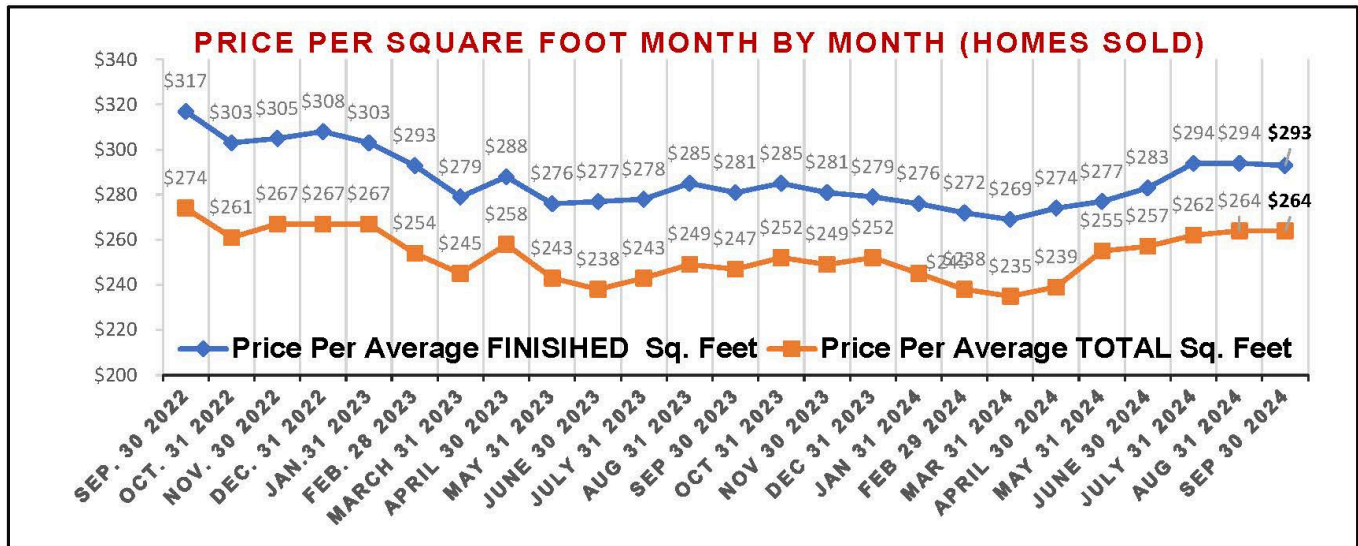
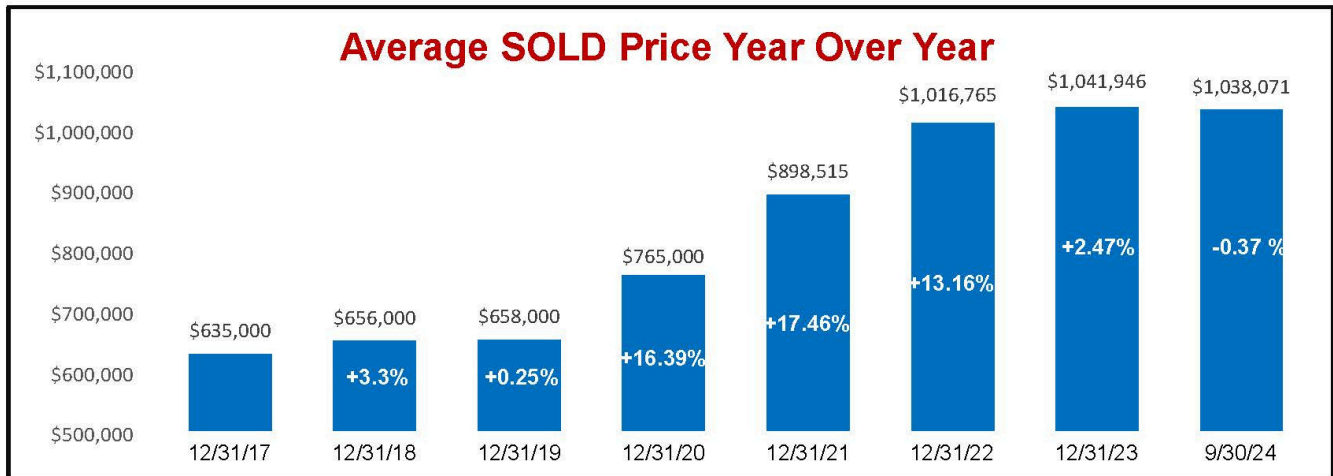
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Larkspur Area Real Estate Stats – HOMES SOLD

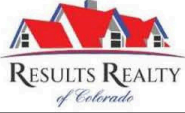
Homes Currently For-Sale (10/22/2024) ---44 (\$499,900 to \$1,900,000) --- Median \$994,948
Average Days on Market --- 82

Homes Currently “Under Contract” --- 11 (\$619,900 to \$1,374,500) --- Median \$1,159,000
Average Days on Market --- 81

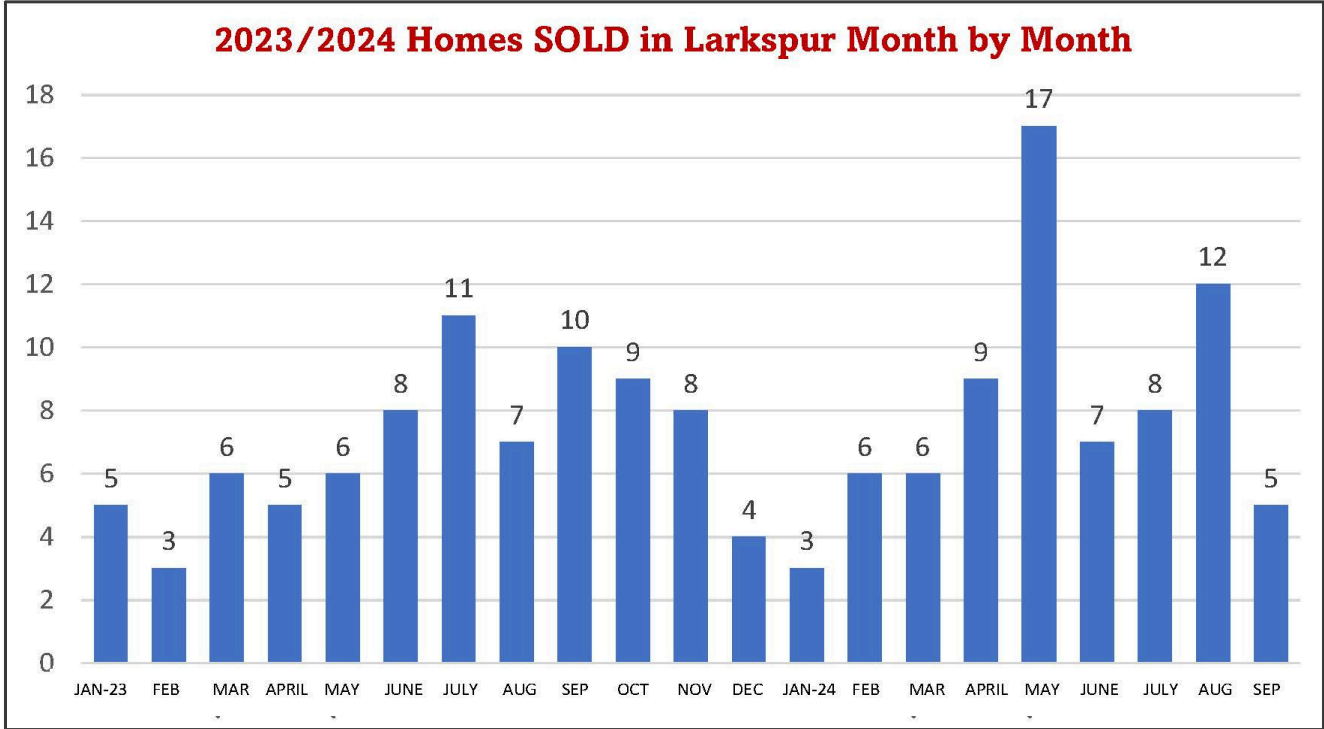


---The charts above represent a 6-month study of home sales ending on the last date of the month indicated. The top 2 and bottom 2 sales have been removed/deleted from each study. This is because very unusual properties can skew the factors that reflect actual market conditions. For example, a property 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.

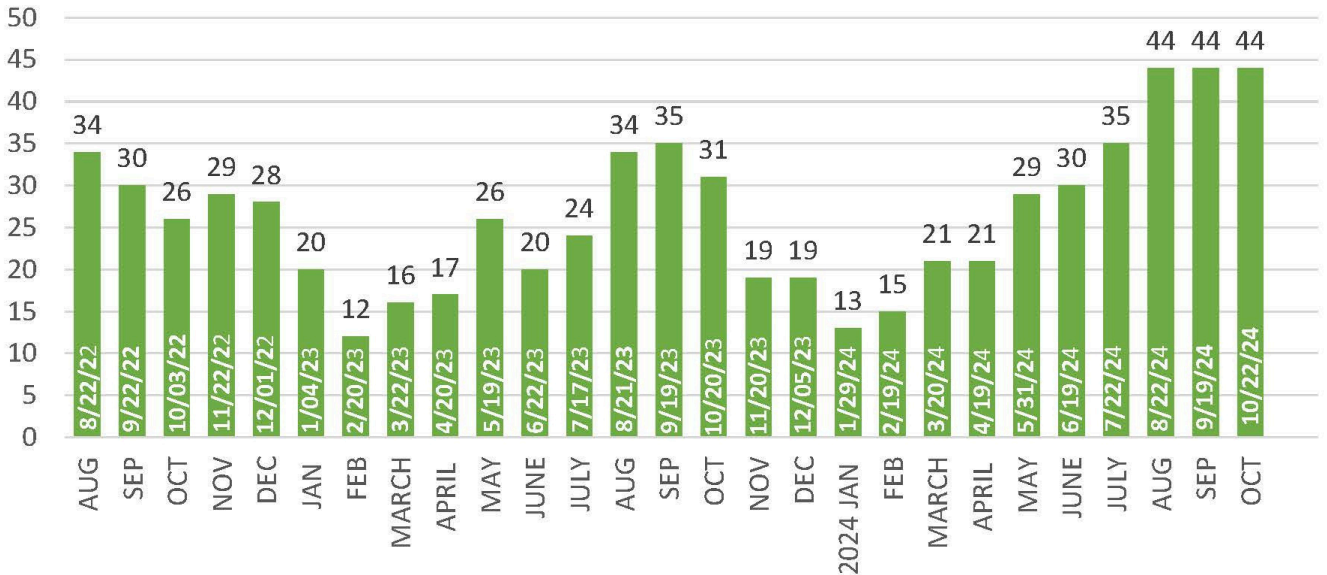
---The above information has been researched from the Metro Denver MLS System (www.REcolorado.com) by **Dave Gardner of Results Realty of Colorado**, located in the Town of Larkspur, CO. It is believed to be accurate but is NOT guaranteed. Every property will have unique factors affecting value such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



2022/2023/2024 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
DavesResultsTeam@yahoo.com
www.DaveGardnerRealEstate.com



DAVE GARDNER'S Results Realty of Colorado

Office located on the Main Street of Larkspur



FOR SALE
\$974,900



View Property Website at
www.8174IncaRoad.com

8174 Inca Road - Perry Park

Welcome to the Foothills of the Colorado Rocky Mountains! BACKS TO OPEN SPACE - VERY PRIVATE! Main Floor Primary Suite and Partial Finished Walkout Basement. 4,763 Square ft. with 5 bedrooms and 3-1/2 baths. Spacious "Great-Room" concept.

FOR SALE
\$249,900



7749 Inca Rd. - Perry Park

READY-TO-BUILD South-Facing 1-Acre LOT in Perry Park. Beautiful Rock Formation ON-SITE!! Will make a gorgeous backdrop for your new Dream Home. All utilities and paved road are here!! Gorgeous Mountain Views!

UNDER CONTRACT
\$999,900



View Property Website at
www.7255PerryParkBlvd.com

7255 Perry Park Blvd. - Perry Park

Custom RANCH-STYLE Home with partially finished Walkout Basement with 4,700 total Sq. Feet featuring 3 bedrooms, 3 baths and an oversized 1.6-acre lot. This custom home provides that Main-Floor Lifestyle, has had only one owner and has been lovingly maintained!

FOR SALE
\$48,000



4415 Elati Road - Perry Park

1-Acre Lot in the Pristine Pine Forest of Perry Park---feels and looks like Rocky Mountain National Park! Gorgeous towering Ponderosa Pine Trees on this naturally forested lot. Unknown timeframe for the extension of the paved road and the installation of utilities.

FOR SALE
\$74,900



13670 Spruce Creek Circle - Woodmoor Mountain

This 4.139-Acre Lot is in the Larkspur area of Douglas County and is "READY-TO-BUILD". Enjoy views of nearby flat top "Buttes" and views of the Valley Below. Electric and phone lines along with High-Speed Cable are HERE!

SOLD
\$69,900



8160 Bannock Drive - Perry Park

Flat to Gently Sloping Site allows for an easy build AND a walkout basement at the back of your new home. Unknown timeframe for the extension of the paved road and utilities (that is why the price is so low).



303-681-1000
www.DaveGardnerRealEstate.com

LARKSPUR AREA SPECILIST!



A walk on the wild side

Susan Peters, Contributor



Turkey facts...new in Bearville...short takes

Super vision? Flowing beards? Spiral poo? Yeah, there's plenty to talk about when it comes to this American icon. I have been waiting almost a year to share turkey facts published on the Audubon web site. Below appears an edited version.

The American turkey's large size, impressive plumage, and distinct look make this bird hard to mistake no matter the time of year. Despite so many Americans being familiar with the wild turkey, however, folks might be surprised to discover that they know very little about them—and what they think they do know might not be true. Read on for a cornucopia of fun facts about everyone's favorite gobbler.

1.) Turkeys are believed to be named after the country. Linguists theorize that early Europeans were reminded of their African guinea fowl back home, which was native to Turkey, and the similarity led to its name.

2.) There are only two species of wild turkey: Ours here in North America and the ocellated turkey in Central America. The North American wild turkey has five distinct subspecies and also comes in a variety of color morphs.

3.) Male turkeys can weigh up to 25 pounds, while the average female is around half that weight. Despite this heft and their reputation for being ground dwellers, wild turkeys often roost overnight in trees to avoid predators. The only larger bird in North America is the trumpeter swan.

4.) While they might not look like the fastest birds, wild turkeys are surprisingly confident fliers, capable of hitting 60 miles per hour. They are also more agile than they appear.

5.) Turkeys have excellent eyesight, seeing three times more clearly than 20/20 vision. They can also see in color and have a 270-degree field of vision.

This—along with their generally wary nature—gives them an edge on both predators and hunters.

6.) Did you know you can discern a turkey's sex from its droppings? It's true. Male scat is shaped like the letter J, while a female's droppings are more spiral-shaped. And the bigger the poop, the older the bird. And, man, can they deliver the poop! As seen on our deck when they go for the bird feeders.



Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren/Flickr

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7.) Wild turkey populations plummeted in the 19th century due to overhunting and a loss of habitat, with the species disappearing entirely from New England. Fortunately, wild turkey conservation efforts throughout the 20th century led to a sharp rebound throughout their historic range, and now the birds have taken over the Northeast and even some Midwest towns. The stories of their activities their sound like roving bands of aggressive juvenile thugs with their doing things like surrounding a police car and holding people hostage in their own homes. REALLY? All it takes here is a large dog to have the birds scooting.

8.) Along with their waddles and snoods—the piece of flesh that dangles from the beak—turkeys have another standout feature: Beards. The bundle of feathers sprouting from their chest is known as a turkey beard, and it gets longer as the bird ages. While all males have beards, some females also grow them, though why is still a mystery to scientists.

9.) To debunk a popular turkey tale, Benjamin Franklin did not advocate for the turkey as the national bird. He also didn't besmirch the bald eagle, either. In fact, the letter to his daughter that is often cited as the source of both these "facts" was actually satire.

10.) The first official presidential turkey pardon was given by George H.W. Bush in 1989, but reports credit many presidents with the tradition, including Abraham Lincoln, whose son took a liking to the turkey destined for Christmas dinner, and Harry Truman, who was the first to appear in a photo op with a turkey that would later be served.

Last month we immersed ourselves in New England and Eastern Canadian fall foliage with its brilliant colors of red, yellow, and orange. We drove through small towns connected by roads that used to be cow paths. Not once did we see a turkey despite the fact that New England now has an overwhelming turkey population after a century of no turkeys due to overhunting and loss of habitat.

Bear happenings

The bruins are going to be hesitant about claiming their hibernation palace with the very warm temps this last month and lots of grub still to be had. So, expect them to scoot up a chair to your Thanksgiving table, depending on the weather.

I have started following the Fat Bear Week contest on the Kenai peninsula in Alaska. This week is a celebration of success and survival: The resilience, adaptability, and strength of Katmai's brown bears (AKA grizzlies). Online visitors vote on which bear is ultimately crowned the Fat Bear Week champion. Over the course of the week, visitors learn more about the lives and histories of individual bears while also gaining a greater understanding of Katmai's ecosystem through a series of live events hosted on [explore.org](https://www.explore.org).

My favorite this year is a two-time champion, female Grazer, who was the winner last year. Even her surviving cub was named Junior Fat Bear! She had had twins who were swept away over a waterfall. A bear downstream caught one and ate him.

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That bear is Chunk and is the runner up to Grazer. See Grazer below after coming out of hibernation and last month after fattening up. The other bear is Chunk, aptly named.



Photos: Fat Bear Week

Speaking of fat bears, our son Tony Cominiello in Monument caught this black bear guy in their yard.

Short takes

Horrific news has just hit the wires: The Living Planet Report, a comprehensive overview of the state of the natural world, reveals global wildlife populations have shrunk by an average of 73% in the past 50 years.



Photo: Tony Cominiello

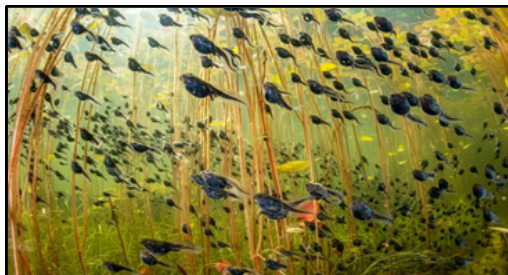


Photo: Shane Gross

I cannot let you go without sharing this outstanding photo by Shane Gross, who was awarded Wildlife Photographer of the year.

A young skunk has been frequenting our wood stack where seeds from the feeders above fall down. Our dogs were very curious and went up to sniff out what

they were hoping was a new pet addition to our household. The skunk took exception to this familiarity and left its calling card on both dogs. Like porcupine encounters, dogs do not learn from being sprayed. Jackson was hit again. Another Thanksgiving with mixture of skunk smells, cooking turkey, and apple spiced candles. Oh joy.

That's all folks for this month. Gotta run; all three jay species (blue jay, scrub, and steller's) are squawking for more peanuts and I cannot concentrate with all that racket.

How to contact me: Email is best at susan@larsspurconsulting.com. Alternatively, call or text 303-725-6868, or send a short write-up to 2255 Quartz Mountain Drive.

"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
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<p>For Sale!</p> <p>6948 Fox Circle Perry Park, Larkspur \$1,900,000</p> <p>4 Bedroom/6 Bathrooms 1 Private Wooded Acre Stunning Panoramic Views!</p>		<p>Views of the Red Rocks, Perry Park & Pike National Forest from almost every window. This home features artistic details including copper clad fireplaces, beautiful wall sconces, travertine floors, glass accents and tons of picture windows to take in the stunning views. The deck is ideal for entertaining while taking in the views. The finished walk out lower level includes 2 guest ensuites, family room and theater room.</p>
--	--	--



Just Sold!
**837 Kenosha Drive
Sage Port, Larkspur
\$900,000**



5280

For Outstanding Customer Service!



For Sale!
**5090 S Perry Park Road
Dawson Butte, Sedalia \$1,995,000**

This 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom home is perfectly situated on 36 acres with breathtaking views. The great room features views from the picture windows along with access to the wrap around deck. Enjoy the main floor master suite. Park your RV in the 1,300 sq ft RV garage.

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



"Ben was instrumental in watching and understanding our housing market and ensuring we got the home ready to take advantage of that market. While Ben offered excellent quality, it was his "style" and approach to marketing our home we appreciated

most and his in-depth knowledge of the Larkspur market. Bottom line, Ben got us a full market list price for our home in a timely and stress-free manner. We are repeat customers and would gladly use Ben again." **Feedback from Rick and Arina Biddle**

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