

A photograph of a lynx sitting on a rocky, pine-needle-covered ground. The lynx has a grey and white spotted coat and is looking towards the left. The background consists of large, light-colored rocks and a dark, shadowed area.

LARKSPUR SENTINEL

FEBRUARY 2025

Serving the 80118 community

Happy New Year!



ELIZABETH OWENS



THE RE/MAX COLLECTION

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ELIZABETH OWENS has a reputation centered on residential, high-end and acreage properties in Larkspur, Castle Rock and throughout Douglas County. For the past 21+ 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.

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A note from the Publisher and Editor

Larkspur Sentinel

Happy New Year from the Larkspur Sentinel team!

We're delighted to ring in the new year by introducing our new co-editors, Kim Carlsen and Nicole Wegg. Nicole and Kim will be joining the team in 2025 to offer editorial and storytelling support for the Larkspur Sentinel. We're delighted to have them aboard!

Kim moved to Larkspur from Castle Rock in 2024 and has been enjoying her first Larkspur winter with her husband in Perry Park. With a background in education and a degree in English, Kim has years of experience creating and editing newsletters.



Kim Carlsen



Nicole Wegg

Originally from Texas, Nicole has been in Colorado since 2003 and her family has lived in Perry Park since 2021. Nicole has a degree in journalism and is currently a manager at a local non-profit in addition to being a Master Certified Life Coach.

Looking ahead, we're excited about what's to come in 2025—including our return to print later this year! Stay tuned for more details soon.

Please join us in giving Kim and Nicole a warm welcome to the team here at the Larkspur Sentinel!

Kate Wessels

Kate Wessels, Editor

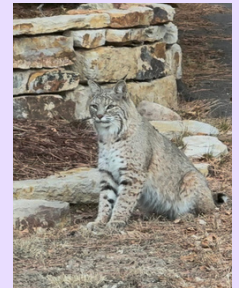
Stephanie Y. Deininger

Stephanie Y. Deininger, Publisher

♥ We also want to give a big thank you to our current editor, Kate Wessels, for all she's done to keep the Larkspur Sentinel going strong this past year. She has poured so much thought and care into every issue, and we're so grateful for her dedication. While she's stepping back from the editor role, she's still part of the Sentinel family, and you'll see her contributions pop up from time to time. If you cross paths with Kate, please let her know her efforts haven't gone unnoticed!

Share your best Larkspur photos!

FEBRUARY 2025 Cover



Cover Picture By:
TODD DEININGER

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for a chance to see it on the
front cover.

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larkspursentinel.org

What's going on?

Feb. 4: Larkspur Parks and Recreation Board Meeting [INFO](#) 6-8 p.m. at Town Hall

Feb. 6: Larkspur Town Council Meeting [INFO](#) 6-8 p.m. at Town Hall

Feb. 11: Larkspur Planning Commission Meeting [INFO](#) 5-6:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Feb. 11: Larkspur Chamber of Commerce Monthly Mixer [INFO](#) 5:30-7 p.m. at the McKillip Group Solutions in Castle Rock

Feb. 13: Perry Park Metro District Meeting [INFO](#) 6 p.m. at Perry Park Country Club

Feb. 13: Larkspur Fire Protection District Board Meeting [INFO](#) 6 p.m. at LFPD Station 161

Feb. 18: Larkspur Water and Sewer Board Meeting [INFO](#) 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Feb. 19: Perry Park Water and Sanitation District Meeting [INFO](#) 2 p.m. at 5676 Red Rock Drive

Feb. 20: Larkspur Town Council Meeting [INFO](#) 6-8 p.m. at Town Hall

Feb. 26: Larkspur Town Public Hearing [INFO](#) 6-8 p.m. at LFPD Station 161

**All dates are 2025 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 breathtaking snowy photos!



Rabbit in snow.



Drone photo of Perry Park in snow.

Town of Larkspur update

Sherilyn West, Mayor

Town of Larkspur



Happy New Year! The town is planning for a great 2025.

Did you know that the town of Larkspur was founded in 1869? The town applied for incorporation at the very end of 1979; in 1980, we approved our charter and elected our first town council. The council consisted of the Mayor Anne Trueblood and six councilmen: Louie Been, John Henson, Stan Trueblood, Ernie Bryant, Larry Starr, and Les Ashley. It's been 45 years since the first town council, and the town is still going strong. Be on the lookout for a possible town event to celebrate later this year.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing with the Town of Larkspur Council will be held on February 26, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Larkspur Fire Protection District, for the purpose of reviewing findings and determining whether 341 & 441 Fox Farm Road, Larkspur, CO 80118 meets the applicable annexation requirements of Section 30 of Article II of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. §§ 31-12-104 and 31-12-105 and if the property is considered eligible for annexation.

For more information, call the Larkspur Town Manager at 720-828-6208.

An advertisement for Altitude Futures. The background is dark blue. On the left, white text reads 'Altitude Futures provides daily system-generated trading signals for Futures Market investors!'. Below this is a list of three bullet points: '▶ Altitude Futures offers hands-free futures investment strategies for the worldwide futures markets.', '▶ Looking for a great way to diversify your portfolio and participate in the largest financial markets in the world?', 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 for 'ALTITUDE FUTURES' above a photograph of a snow-capped mountain range reflected in a calm lake. At the bottom left, small white text reads 'There is significant risk involved in trading futures. Past performance is not indicative of future results.'

Camping at Sandstone Ranch Open Space? Community backlash breaks out against proposed use of open space

*Kate Wessels, Editor
Larkspur Sentinel*

Primitive camping may soon be a reality at Sandstone Ranch Open Space, despite community backlash from Larkspur neighbors.

Douglas County commissioners have directed staff to develop a primitive undeveloped, or minimalist campaign program on Sandstone Ranch with a goal of beginning by Memorial Day weekend 2025.



*Sandstone Ranch Open Space, February 2021.
Photo by Kate Wessels.*

The proposal takes shape

The discussion of camping on Sandstone Ranch came up during a Douglas County Board of Commissioners' work session on October 28, 2024. During the meeting, Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources staff indicated they had been directed by the commissioners to research camping options in Douglas County. Complying with that directive, staff brought a proposal to the commissioners that focused on the establishment of a seasonal camping program at Sandstone Ranch. At the meeting, staff presented a variety of camping options on Sandstone Ranch that included primitive/passive camping with no tent pads, active camping with tent pads, camping in yurts and established buildings on the open space, and potentially even camping in RV campsites.

Sandstone Ranch contains four residences, 19 outbuildings, three historic irrigation ditches, two reservoirs, and two ponds. Eight prehistoric isolated finds and one historic isolated find were recorded during the cultural resource survey.

As a part of the county's acquisition of Sandstone Ranch in 2018 the county was required to develop and convey a conservation easement on the entire ranch to receive payment of a \$3.5M grant award from Great Outdoors Colorado. The easement is held by Douglas Land Conservancy and stipulates that only passive recreational activities that do not require additional facilities and development are permitted on the property. Active recreational activities that include construction of facilities and development are limited.

The staff presentation to the commissioners included research regarding other camping programs in Jefferson County Open Space and Colorado State Parks. Staff cited minimal issues reported at those properties related to camping, with the biggest issues being off-leash dogs and trash.

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The Douglas County program would be a pilot program that could be evaluated and replicated at other open space properties throughout Douglas County potentially including Prairie Canyon Ranch, Lincoln Mountain, and Nelson Ranch/Pike Hill.

Commissioners George Teal and Abe Laydon expressed enthusiastic support for the program during the meeting.

“For me, this is a yeah, let’s do it now!” Teal said. “I think it’s great; I think this will be phenomenal for us to offer as a part of our open space program.”

Former Commissioner Lora Thomas was less excited about the proposal.

“I have not been in support of this,” Thomas said, noting that she had received three emails that day from citizens saying they didn’t support camping on Douglas County Open Space properties.

Camping not addressed in original 2020 Sandstone Ranch Master Plan

Douglas County acquired Sandstone Ranch in 2018. That year, a public survey was conducted to obtain public input on preservation priorities, appropriate public uses, and concerns for the property. Survey responses informed the development of a comprehensive [2020 Sandstone Ranch Master Plan](#) that has been used to guide the management of the property.

When survey respondents were asked to rank appropriate activities for use on Sandstone, camping did not rank in the top 12 uses. Recreation was the third highest priority of the survey participants, while protection of the natural resources and wildlife habitat were first and second. Of the recreational activities identified, the top uses included hiking, access to Pike National Forest, educational programs, horseback riding, guided tours, and running/biking events.

The single biggest concern reported by survey participants, volunteers, and staff was overuse or “loving the property to death.”

Current proposal

Under the current proposal, 5-10 camping sites would be located off the Juniper Valley loop in the northern part of the open space. The camping sites would be primitive, minimalist sites, meaning they would be undeveloped with no tent pads, plumbing, or running water. The location would include one port-a-pot toilet for camper use. Open space staff are considering whether or not dogs would be allowed overnight with permitted campers; equines would not be permitted due to the lack of available water and a round pen.

Campfires and smoking would not be allowed at the sites; small burner stoves for heating

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water and cooking would be permitted. Campsites would be hike-in only, and campers would need to pack in and pack out their belongings and trash. No car camping, RV camping, trailers, or other motorized vehicles would be allowed in the campsites. Campers would need to reserve in advance and would be required to watch an educational video on Leave No Trace principles prior to obtaining a reservation.

A camp host (likely a volunteer) would be assigned to the campsites, but would not necessarily be stationed to sleep directly in the camping area. There are currently four rangers employed by Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources to cover all of the county's open space properties; two more are being hired in 2025.

The campsites are proposed as a part of the phase two proposed development of Sandstone Ranch, which includes the development of additional trails in the southern portion of the property.

Other camping options that exist close to Larkspur include dispersed camping on Rampart Range Road and Jellystone Park in Larkspur.

Community backlash

On January 7, the county hosted a community open house event at the Larkspur Fire Station to answer questions about the proposal. Though the county sent out mailed postcards to some surrounding Sandstone Ranch neighbors announcing the meeting, many communities including Perry Park did not receive notice of the meeting and were upset to find out about the proposal on social media and via other neighbors.



Proposed primitive camping at Sandstone Ranch Open Space noted in blue. Map provided by county during January 7 community open house event.

Representatives from a variety of county and local agencies were present, including Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources (including open space rangers), Douglas County Open Space Advisory Committee, Larkspur Fire Protection District, and others.

“We’re in very early stages of gathering community input,” said Dan Dertz, director of Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources. “Comments shared here tonight will be brought back in a work session.”

Community members present at the open house shared a variety of concerns, including wondering how the camping would be enforced, how trash and human excrement would be handled, potential wildfire danger, and vagrant camping activity.

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While the current camping proposal would not permit campfires or smoking, many in the community have expressed concerns about enforcement of the campfire prohibition and potential illegal campfires that could quickly spread in such a high fire danger area.

According to the [Rocky Mountain Insurance Association](#), the cost of property insurance premiums have increased nearly 60% from 2018 to 2023. While hail storm damage has been a large factor, increased wildfire risk in rural areas is making it more challenging for homeowners to obtain affordable coverage...if they can find coverage at all. Given the challenges of finding and keeping homeowners insurance, community members have cited concerns that the addition of nearby camping will make the situation worse, regardless of whether campfires are permitted.

Homeowners insurance has become such a challenging issue in Colorado that the state legislature passed HB 23-1288 in 2023, establishing the [Fair Access to Insurance Requirements \(FAIR\) Plan](#). The FAIR Plan was created to address situations where insurance companies may refuse coverage in the state due to high-risk factors such as the property's location or vulnerability to certain perils such as wildfires. Funding through the program will become available in 2025.

Community members wishing to submit feedback on the Sandstone Ranch camping proposal can do so on the county's website [Minimalist Camping at Sandstone Ranch Open Space](#).



Sandstone Ranch Open Space, June 2023. Photo by Kate Wessels.

News from the Perry Park Water and Sanitation District

Brian Arthurs, Director

Perry Park Water and Sanitation District

“It is known that wildfires behave unpredictably—this is fundamental—but it is my experience that humans in the presence of wildfire are also likely to behave in aberrant and unpredictable ways.” —Michael Leunig



Strategic water use for firefighting efforts and property protection during firestorms

Firestorms are devastating events that pose a direct threat to life and property. When a residential area is threatened by wildfire, water availability can become significantly limited due to factors like damaged infrastructure, power outages, increased demand from firefighting efforts, and potential contamination from smoke and ash, leaving residents with potentially little accessible water for basic needs or fire protection. While prioritizing firefighting efforts and community-wide water conservation are crucial, residents of the Perry Park Water and Sanitation District (PPWSD) can also strategically utilize water resources to enhance property protection during these critical events.

Key points about water availability during a wildfire

- Limited access to PPWSD systems:
 - Damaged water lines, power outages, and high water usage by firefighters can lead to low water pressure or complete disruption of the water supply.
 - Ash from wildfires can infiltrate private wells, contaminating the water with potentially harmful chemicals.
- Importance of backup water storage:
 - Having a readily accessible water reserve, such as large containers filled with water and a pump, can be crucial for home protection and basic needs during a wildfire.
 - After a wildfire, even if water is available, it should be evaluated for contaminants like ash particles, chemicals, and bacteria before consumption.

What to do if facing a wildfire threat regarding water

- Check with local authorities and the PPWSD website to stay informed about potential water restrictions or advisories.
- Fill water storage containers with a large supply of clean drinking water in advance.
- Monitor well water quality as wildfires can render wells unsafe to use for drinking water and other purposes.
- Limit water usage for non-essential activities to conserve available water.
- Prioritize firefighting needs:
 - Avoid unnecessary water use: Refrain from using water for non-essential purposes like lawn watering, landscape features, or car washing.

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- Support firefighting efforts: If trained and equipped, residents may be able to assist firefighters with water-based suppression efforts under direct supervision.
- Prioritize personal safety more than anything else. Never attempt to fight a fire directly unless you are trained and equipped to do so.
- Always adhere to the instructions and guidance of local fire officials and emergency responders.
- Make sure fire hydrants are accessible.

According to Keith Worley, wildfire mitigation specialist, when it comes to wildfire, fire hydrants are in place to handle a couple of relatively localized structure fires for a relatively short duration and are of little use to fight large-scale wildfires for the following reasons:

- Firefighters must be mobile.
- Conditions change rapidly and force firefighters to evacuate dangerous situations.
- Fixed hydrants and cisterns may be in harm's way.
- Water and water pressure in the system may not be available due to depletion or too much demand on the system.

PPWSD, Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD), and Perry Park Metropolitan District (PPMD) have expressed interest in the installation of a dry hydrant at the Gateway Pond. Information on the progress of this and the related application for Gateway Pond to be designated as a Fire Suppression Pond, is forthcoming.

Should wetting down structures with a garden hose be used to slow the fire's advance?

According to Will Parker, PPWSD systems manager, this is not the best course of action.

“This is not recommended. If all or most of the customers ran their hoses or sprinklers, the district would not have much time/or would have little water for firefighting. The water used by a customer's hose may just evaporate before the fire even gets to their house.”

Rooftop sprinkler systems, foams, swimming pool pumps, and a host of other fire suppression ideas are available. Due diligence is highly recommended.

Potential effects of wildfires include the following:

- Changes in the magnitude and timing of snowmelt runoff.
- Post-fire erosion and transport of sediment and debris to downstream water treatment plants and aquatic ecosystems.
- Increased turbidity (cloudiness caused by suspended material), can produce larger volumes of sludge, both of which would raise operating costs.

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- Changes in source-water chemistry can alter drinking-water treatment.
- Though limited long term data exists, studies along the Colorado Front Range have shown burned areas and streams to have elevated concentrations of arsenic, aluminum, cadmium, iron, lead, and mercury several years after a fire.

By utilizing water strategically and responsibly, PPWSD residents can play a crucial role in protecting their property while supporting the broader community during a firestorm.

The PPWSD Town Hall, with a panel of experts from Colorado Department of Health and Environment, was held on January 15. The representatives discussed radium and its impact to people and pets, and also answered questions from attendees. The [meeting recording](#) is available on the PPWSD website.

The most recent radium sample was 3.9 pCi/L. Currently the system has no open MCL violations. Please note the district may still be required to send out violation notices if the four-quarter average exceeds the 5 pCi/L limit.

It is also important to stay informed regarding water quality and any potential impacts on your health. Visit the [PPWSD website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

The bulletin board

Larkspur Sentinel

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



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77 Perry Park Avenue, Larkspur

LARKSPUR CHURCH

Larkspur Fire notes achievements in 2024, challenges and threats ahead in 2025

Wayne Moore, Secretary–Board of Directors

Larkspur Fire Protection District



The recent fires in Los Angeles and the videos showing long walls of flame front and widespread loss of homes serve as a stark reminder of what could happen here.

In 2024, LFPD responded to incidents ranging from wildland fire (Wiens Ranch fire, following a thorough investigation determined as accidental) to a plane crash (into East Plum Creek) to emergency medical services (approximately 70% of our call volume) to a significant multi-vehicle accident (21 vehicles involved on I-25 this past New Year's Eve). It brings forth the importance of being ready with personnel, equipment, and training for all emergencies every day of the year. This month's article examines what we did in 2024 to meet this mission.

Operational accomplishments

- We increased paramedic staffing to three on each shift, which enhanced Advanced Life Support (ALS) capabilities around the clock at both stations.
- Issues affecting firefighter recruitment and retention were effectively addressed. It was a multifactorial matter, with the principal areas of wages, recognition of accomplishment, training, and career advancement being tackled. Our firefighters are our most valuable asset, and we currently have virtually no staff turnover.
- We have added two UTVs (Utility Task Vehicle, one configured for wildland firefighting and the other for backcountry patient transport) and a new wildland brush truck to our fleet.
- Remediation of various facilities and equipment maintenance conditions was performed without causing a budgetary crisis.
- All firefighter air-pack units were replaced. This was a life-safety measure due to the aging of existing equipment.
- All firefighter “bunker gear” was replaced, each with two sets. This is a safety measure, as each set has an expiration date. We are now 100% in compliance. Also, after contamination by smoke or other hazardous substances, the gear must be immediately washed to reduce the long-term risk of cancer and other health problems. So, a second set is necessary to keep firefighters ready.
- All wildland apparel and safety equipment were replaced, with each firefighter having their own gear set. These were, in part, purchased through money received from Douglas County.

Board of Directors statement

- Chief McCawley’s first full year of service for LFPD was 2024. He has established a

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high level of mutual trust and collaborative working relationships with multiple stakeholders. His accomplishments far exceeded the board's expectations.

- Work was started in the formulation of a five-year plan. The board intends to include community input. Key issues include:
 - Revenue sustainability: Colorado legislation limits the growth of residential property tax to an annualized rate of 5%. This works in areas that are growing and/or have commercial development, but our fire district has limited options. The landscape of escalating apparatus acquisition costs and maintaining competitive salaries for staff retention will present significant challenges. The goal is to continue the present financial stability of LFPD. Achieving this will be a considerable concern for the board.
 - Staffing sustainability: Staffing levels have improved, especially at the Perry Park station. Staffing levels still fall short of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA, an organization that develops fire safety codes and standards)-recommended fire department standards due primarily to funding. This is important from the perspective of firefighter safety and rapid response to more significant or multiple events.
- At the end of 2024, LFPD had \$2,499,320 in our operations account and \$1,274,301 in the restricted funds account (capital equipment/projects, bond payment). At the end of the 2024 budget, income was 107% of the budget, and expenses were 79% of the budget.
- The LFPD Board of Directors has five members. Three positions will be open for the term beginning in May 2025. If you desire to serve on the board, please submit a self-nomination form (obtained at the fire station in Larkspur) before 5 p.m. on February 28. A special election must be conducted if more than three community members express interest.

Please contact Chief McCawley at 303-681-3284 or larkspurfire.org if you seek more information.

The next LFPD Board of Directors meeting is February 13 at 6 p.m.

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News from the Perry Park Metropolitan District

Steve Ostrowski, Director and Secretary
Perry Park Metropolitan District



Perry Park Metropolitan District
The Special District For Perry Park Ranch

Hello Perry Park Metropolitan District residents,

We approved the 2025 budget at our December meeting and completed various year-end required state special district filings. Note that 2025 is an election year for PPMD board positions, so please consider running for a board seat if you would like to help us continue to improve the community's projects and financials.

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 use to continue discussions with further community input. We budgeted \$200K for 2025 to perform a portion of recommended improvements.
- **Entryway improvements:** The board has approved a design contract for our neighborhood entryway, which will be shared with our community. We are still awaiting a decision from Colorado to designate our Gateway Pond as a fire suppression pond, which is taking a very long time to complete.
- **Committees:** We need volunteers to improve our community. There are several committees: Independence Day Planning, Firewise, Entry Design, and Parks and Open Space! To get involved, email info@perrypark.org and we'll get you connected.
- **Donations to community events:** We have a non-profit, 501c(3) fund that accepts tax-deductible donations called the Perry Park Community Fund. See our website for more information. This fund may be dissolved soon, but your funds will not be lost. You can also make tax-deductible donations directly to the PPMD as a non-profit government entity.

You can see the board meeting schedule and documents, as well as other neighborhood information and contact forms, at perryparkmd.colorado.gov.

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



News from Larkspur Elementary School

Larkspur Elementary School



Larkspur Elementary would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our community for a successful Holiday Bazaar!

We are thrilled to reflect on the success of our first annual Holiday Bazaar held in December! With an incredible turnout of over 1,000 visitors, the event was a wonderful celebration of community spirit, and we couldn't have done it without your support.

A big thank you to our generous sponsors—Elizabeth Owens, Dave Gardner, Sheps Construction, and Pure Essentials—whose donations helped make the event possible. Your contributions made a meaningful difference!

We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Elementary PACC Committee, especially Liz Satkowski and Liza Kemp, for their hard work and dedication in organizing the event. It was a true team effort, and the results were fantastic! A special thanks also goes out to the 50+ vendors who participated and to everyone who attended. Your support made this fundraiser a success, and we look forward to next year's event!

Looking ahead: Exciting events for 2025

As we begin the new year, we are excited about the many opportunities that lie ahead for our students. The 5th and 6th graders are gearing up for an unforgettable three-day outdoor education experience at Keystone Science School. They are eagerly preparing for this memorable trip, which will undoubtedly leave them with lasting memories.

Additionally, it's time to register for kindergarten! If your child will turn 5 on or before October 1, 2025, we invite you to enroll them for the 2025-2026 school year. For more information, please visit our website at larkspurelementary.org or contact the school directly.

Thank you once again to our incredible community for your ongoing support. Here's to a fantastic year ahead! Go Bobcats!



New steak and sushi destinations coming to Castle Rock: The Brickerhoff and Bar Hummingbird

*Cameron McClellan, Contributor
Owner of Colorado Team Real Estate*

Sedalia native Mark Brinkerhoff is preparing to introduce Castle Rock to two remarkable new venues: The Brickerhoff and Bar Hummingbird. Situated between La Loma and Starbucks in the Promenade District, these sister establishments embody the upscale design and culinary artistry that Brinkerhoff Hospitality is renowned for. Known for operating local restaurants Sierra in Lone Tree and La Loma in Castle Rock, Brinkerhoff Hospitality is set up to elevate Castle Rock's dining and social scene.



The Brickerhoff: A nod to timeless elegance

With stunning views of the valley, The Brickerhoff looks to be Castle Rock's premier fine dining destination. Located in a beautifully designed 2,644-square-foot space, the restaurant's menu has been crafted by a team of acclaimed chefs. Guests can expect a variety of locally sourced dishes, including artisan charcuterie boards and innovative Colorado-inspired entrees. A thoughtfully curated wine list and creative cocktails will round out the dining experience.

Bar Hummingbird: A modern speakeasy and event space

Just steps away from The Brickerhoff, Bar Hummingbird offers a distinctly different but equally exceptional experience. This 9,052-square-foot cocktail lounge and event space boasts panoramic views of the valley and a chic, intimate atmosphere.

"Our goal is to create a space where people can unwind and connect, enjoying a setting that feels both exclusive and approachable," shared a spokesperson for the venue.



A new chapter for Castle Rock

The opening of these venues represents another milestone in Castle Rock's growth as a cultural and culinary destination. Both venues are scheduled to open early 2025 with a grand opening celebration. They will soon be joined by Lazy Dog Restaurant at Promenade Parkway and Castlegate Drive.

Major I-25 closure planned in February for Crystal Valley interchange project

Town of Castle Rock

Foundation work is underway in the median on both sides of I-25 in preparation for the construction of a bridge over I-25 and the BNSF Railway tracks as part of the Crystal Valley interchange project, the Town of Castle Rock's top transportation priority.

In February, crews are planning various daytime and nighttime road closures to set girders to form the new bridge structure over I-25, West Frontage Road and BNSF Railway tracks. For one week in mid-February, daytime closures of West Frontage Road will take place, requiring Twin Oaks residents to access their homes from the west off Wolfensberger Road. The following week, full nighttime closures of I-25 and West Frontage Road will take place, requiring all interstate traffic to detour on East Frontage Road between Exit 181 (Plum Creek Parkway) and Exit 174 (Tomah Road). The timeline of this work may be delayed if weather conditions do not permit safe work operations.

To be notified of this month's closure details and detour routes, check the Town's website and sign up for project update emails at CRgov.com/CVI.

Earthwork operations continue west of I-25 to support new drainage system installations and grading for the accompanying new detention pond structures. Roadway construction is progressing on the new Dawson Trails Boulevard west of I-25 and other local roads that will connect to the future interchange.

Once completed, the new I-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. Completion of the interchange project is anticipated in 2027.

Throughout the duration of the project, watch for heavy machinery, trucks entering and exiting the work zone, flagging operations and daytime and nighttime lane closures on surrounding streets and on I-25.



*Ongoing I-25 bridge work. Photo taken December 2024.
Photo used with permission of Town of Castle Rock.*

Larkspur family breathes new life into former SpeedTrap cafe in Palmer Lake

*Kate Wessels, Editor
Larkspur Sentinel*

Community, connection, and transformation. That's what one Larkspur family promises to deliver to area residents at Lake and Lantern Café in Palmer Lake.

Lake and Lantern Café is the new name of the former SpeedTrap Café. Racquel Garcia and her family purchased the SpeedTrap from the previous owner in fall 2024, and have been working to renovate the property ever since in advance of their February 26 opening.

We sat down with Racquel to learn more about what she and her family hope to bring to the redesigned restaurant in Palmer Lake.

How long have you and your family been Larkspur residents? What brought you here in the first place?

Our family has called Larkspur home since 2016, and our journey here began with a Facebook post. We had been searching for property in Palmer Lake without success when a friend, who was ready to sell her home, reached out. She even took over the rental we were in, and we purchased her property in Larkspur.



The Garcia family. Photo courtesy of Racquel Garcia.

Tell us more about your journey to ownership of the SpeedTrap. Why did you and your family decide to purchase the restaurant?

The SpeedTrap has a special place in my heart. The original owner and I met in treatment back in 2010—my last three days were his first. I attended recovery meetings there, shared meals, and connected with the community at various events over the years. More recently, my sons worked at the café, and my husband, Chris, has been maintaining its kitchen equipment for years through our business, HardBeauty Mechanical. When I saw the For Sale sign, I knew this was the perfect opportunity to bring our family's talents together and give back to the community.

What kinds of changes are you planning on making? What can customers expect in terms of food, events, etc?

We're making some exciting changes, starting with the name. The café will be rebranded as Lake and Lantern Café, where "Life is Lit Differently." We'll serve fabulous food, crafted

continued from previous page

coffees, mocktails, zero-proof beverages, and smoothies. Alcohol will no longer be on the menu as we aim to create a substance-free, welcoming space for connection. In our small community, there's a need for sober social opportunities, and we're excited to meet that need with events like "20-Something Nights," live music, and recovery meetings.

On January 19, I celebrated 15 years of sustained recovery. We plan to host hybrid recovery meetings in the café starting in March. One of these will be Gladiators, a group I've led online for three years. My husband, who has been sober for six years, will also host a blue-collar recovery group for men.

Have you run similar ventures like this in the past?

Although I've never run a café before, I have extensive experience fostering community connection and supporting recovery. HardBeauty LLC offers peer recovery coaching statewide, and HardBeauty Havens is working to create recovery housing for women and children. Through HardBeauty Mechanical, we provide recovery-friendly work environments. Lake and Lantern Café is an extension of that mission, offering a sober experience and a substance-free workplace.

What are you most excited about with your new ownership journey of Lake and Lantern?

I'm especially excited about reconnecting with the Palmer Lake community, where my recovery journey began. Over the past six years, I've supported people across Colorado through [HardBeauty](#), which provides recovery support services funded by grants and donations from the [HardBeauty Foundation](#). Now, I'm bringing that mission back home to the community that helped shape me.

Is there anything else you'd like the Larkspur community to know?

When you spend at Lake and Lantern Café, you're supporting recovery. One of our employees is currently eight months into their recovery journey, and we're committed to providing employment opportunities in all of our businesses to help individuals thrive. Additionally, three percent of all café sales will go directly to the HardBeauty Foundation, which helps individuals and families overcome financial barriers to access recovery support services.

I also want to say that I'm excited for the community to taste my son's food. He's a gifted chef who is often creating new culinary greatness in the middle of the night; he loves cooking that much!

Lake and Lantern is currently undergoing renovations and has set a tentative reopening date on February 26 from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information, visit lakeandlantern.com, and follow us on Instagram at [Lake and Lantern](#) and Facebook at [Lake and Lantern](#).

Embers and wildland fire

Keith Worley, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

No matter how often it is studied and re-studied, the number one cause of home losses is still from embers blown onto and around structures. The Marshall Fire is a classic example of embers igniting homes, often well ahead of the fire front. Some factoids on embers:

- Embers do not “rain down” on structures. These are driven horizontally by high winds often associated with major wildfires and extreme wildfire behavior.
- Embers move like snow in a blizzard, not like ash that floats down on us.
- Embers are burning projectiles traveling at the speed of the wind (20, 40, 60 or even 80 miles per hour) that can ignite fine fuels such as grasses, dead leaves and needles, accumulated debris in and around structures.
- Embers can penetrate into any small opening or void on a structure.
- These openings often contain very fine debris that has accumulated over the years. A more accurate word for this debris is “tinder.” (Definition- tinder, n, : something that catches fire easily; especially : a substance used to kindle a fire from a slight spark.) See the definition of “tinderbox” to describe our homes. The only thing missing is the sparking tool which wildfires can provide as an ember.
- Embers accumulate, just like snow, up against or under combustible building materials. These can build up and hold enough heat to ignite siding, decks, fences and roofing.
- Ember accumulations can generate enough heat to circumvent even non-combustible or Class-A rated materials like cementitious stucco, wood fiber cement board (Hardie Board™), concrete roofing tiles, and metal roofs.

Ember ignitions can be prevented once you know where the “tinder” gets in. This is called “ember proofing” or “structural hardening.” Any opening larger than 1/8th inch is a potential tinder/ember entry point. It needs to be cleaned out and sealed. Simple and inexpensive materials can be used. Even caulk, wire mesh or metal flashing will work in most cases.

Areas where embers can pile up may be more difficult to remedy. There should be 5 inches of vertical clearance below any horizontal/vertical edges. Examples are at the foundation, wall/patio interface, deck/siding interface, dormers located above Class A-rated roofing materials, and deck supports. These are locations where combustible materials behind the rated materials can ignite, causing the house to burn from the inside out.

The Insurance Industry Association for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) is one of the best sources for information on how to prevent ember ignitions. Check out their “Wildfire” section at disastersafety.org. You can watch a video demonstrating how embers ignited a full-size house built in their laboratory. Or, just go to YouTube and enter “ember” and “IBHS” in the search engine for the video to pop up.

We can do this. It is part of how we must adapt to fire. We can evolve, adapt, or die. Personally, I’m working on adaptation.

Perry Park Metropolitan District coordinates with Larkspur Fire Protection District and Jackson-105 to conduct slash pile burn

*Keith Worley, Secretary
PPMD Firewise Committee*

Perry Park Metropolitan District (PPMD), in cooperation with Larkspur Fire Protection District (LFPD) and Jackson-105, completed its slash pile burn Friday, January 17. The burn was conducted during a blizzard with 100% of the surrounding area covered by fireproof snow.

LFPD was onsite to verify the fire was dead out; following the burn, the area was still surrounded by 100% fireproof snow.

The PPMD Firewise Committee met and discussed reports from area residents questioning the safety of the burn. The 2024 Wiens Fire and conditions during that fire were discussed. Conditions were different for the PPMD slash pile burn, and the fire was attended by LFPD to ensure the burn was conducted in a safe manner and that the fire was completely extinguished at the end. PPMD thanks Jeff Hahn, the new LFPD fire marshal, for taking this extra step.



*PPMD conducts a slash pile burn in coordination with LFPD and Jackson 105.
Photos courtesy of PPMD Firewise Committee.*

Agents of Discovery

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



Douglas Land Conservancy (DLC) is teaming up with Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources to give families a new tool to explore the outdoors, learn about the area and have fun while doing it.

That tool is a mobile app called Agents of Discovery that allows users to complete challenges using augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to learn about environmental topics.

The program, launched January 16, lets people explore an area by downloading the free Agents of Discovery mobile app and completing “missions,” or games, at the featured open space.

Missions are made up of challenges that teach players about local history, culture, ecosystems, wildlife, and safety.

For example, players in Douglas County can learn about open spaces and what makes those areas special. The first mission in Douglas County is “Meet Agent Douglas, the Black Bear Cub,” in which players explore Sandstone Ranch Open Space and learn about bear hibernation.

Beginning in March, Douglas County and DLC will create new missions at different open spaces to explore and learn about other county-owned properties conserved by DLC, as well as new conservation topics.

Missions created by other organizations in Colorado can also be found in Chimney Rock National Monument, Town of Erie, City of Brighton, Town of Castle Rock, Cherry Creek State Park, Lake Pueblo, Staunton State Park, and many other locations. DLC and Douglas County missions can be played onsite or from anywhere.

“At DLC we are actively informing people about the land and nature around them,” said Kaitlyn Stabell, DLC’s community outreach and engagement coordinator. “We think Agents of Discovery will be a fun way to learn more about the outdoors.”

Another local partner that has been running Agents of Discovery missions on their open spaces for the last couple of years is the Town of Castle Rock.

“We love Agents of Discovery because it allows families to go out whenever,” said Marne Hansen from Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation. “It’s free, there’s no registration required. Kids and their parents can burn off some energy and learn about nature and stewardship at the same time, any time!”

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To download the free Agents of Discovery app, go to Google Play or the App Store. Once downloaded, find the missions nearby and download them before heading out. No data or wifi is required to play a mission once it has been downloaded.

For “play onsite” missions, challenges will pop up on the app once the user is within vicinity of that challenge on the trail. If playing a “play anywhere” mission, you’ll complete all the same challenges by exploring the digital map of the mission.

Agents of Discovery is a winner of the 2020 Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals Excellence Award, and uses web, mobile, and the latest AR technologies to get kids active and learn about the world around them.

DLC is helping promote the program with information on its website. Just go to douglaslandconservancy.org and look on the “Events” page.

On the Douglas County website, information can be found at douglas.co.us/open-space-natural-resources/agents-of-discovery/.

For more information on Agents of Discovery, visit agentsofdiscovery.com.

The county also will have cardboard cut-outs, flyers, and stickers to promote the program. This program will replace Decode Douglas County Outdoors, a modified treasure hunt that has been going for eight years on Douglas County open spaces.

DLC is a non-profit land trust based in Castle Rock. For more information on DLC, visit douglaslandconservancy.org.



Expert tips on healthy aging by Dr. Andrew Glerum of AdventHealth Medical Group

*Chip Hunnings, Communications and Outreach Manager
Aging Resources of Douglas County*



Colorado is renowned for its natural beauty and active lifestyle, making it crucial for residents to maintain their health to fully enjoy the state's offerings.

Andrew Glerum, a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at AdventHealth Medical Group Family Medicine at Woodlands, frequently receives questions from patients seeking guidance on how to maintain their health as they age.

"I love hearing these questions since it means that people are interested in being proactive in their health. There are many things that can be done to support the mindset that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," said Dr. Glerum.

He suggests the following tips, as well as consulting with your primary care physician to see what works best for you.

1. Get out and be social! Connecting with family, friends, and your local community makes a massive impact on your overall health.
2. Incorporate regular cardiovascular exercise in your routine. Aim to get at least 150 minutes of cardiovascular activity every week, with a goal of getting short of breath due to activity daily.
3. Resistance training at least twice weekly. This can be incredible for mental, bone, joint, and metabolic health.
4. Increasing fiber in your diet. Adding fiber to your diet is an important thing since studies have estimated around 90% of Americans (and 97% of American males) do not consume enough fiber in their diet. Be sure you're having plenty of plants and fiber-rich foods daily.
5. Ensure that you are getting regular, restful sleep. If you are experiencing difficulties with sleep, look into your sleep hygiene which can help you to identify possible causes and don't hesitate to talk to your doctor about sleep.

Some of the common issues among Dr. Glerum's patients include profound stress and anxiety, poor diets, and overuse/overconsumption of alcohol.

"Being surrounded by a group of people who take their health seriously is one of the best ways to do the same," said Dr. Glerum. "You can be that person in your friend group or sometimes it's worth finding a group of people who help you enjoy the activity. Consider joining a walking group or go golfing with friends."

Microgreens: Friend or fad? A New Year's growing trend

*Nichole Rairigh, Douglas County Extension Master Gardener
Douglas County CSU Extension Office*

As winter plods on, planting something to beat the winter blues is an attractive idea. Many of us are thinking about fresh ways to bring vegetables into our lives, though outdoor vegetable gardening is a few months away. Enter microgreens: Tiny, nutrient-packed plants that promise big rewards in a short time. Are they a passing trend, or here to stay?

What are microgreens?

Microgreens are small, edible plants harvested at a early stage of growth. They are slightly larger than sprouts but should not be confused with them. These little greens include a variety of vegetables such as mustard, radish, basil, Swiss chard, kale, cabbage, arugula, and cress. There are also specially designed blends tailored to top sandwiches or salads. One of the best things about microgreens is how quickly they grow. From seed to harvest, the whole process takes just 10 days. For those new to gardening, especially kids, growing microgreens is an exciting activity. Watching the plants grow so quickly can inspire young gardeners and teach them about the cycle of plant life—right in the comfort of home.

Why grow microgreens?

Microgreens are rarely sold in grocery stores and when they are they are expensive due to fragility of the product and packaging required. Microgreens grow incredibly fast providing a fast payoff in the doldrums of winter. Plus, they are nutritional powerhouses containing vitamins A, B, C, and antioxidants.

How to grow microgreens

Seeds can be procured at your local garden center. I have recently tried cilantro microgreens and the Jazzy Mix offered by Botanical Interests®. For step-by-step directions with pictures, visit [An Edible Project for Winter Green Thumbs – Pueblo County Extension](#).

Growing microgreens is easy and doesn't require much space. Here's a simple step-by-step guide to get you started:

1. Procure seed starting mix or potting mix: Start by moistening the mix.
2. Fill a container: You can use a six-pack from your local nursery or even clear to-go containers with lids. Anything that can hold the mix and allow for drainage works.
3. Sow the seeds: Sprinkle the seeds generously over the soil.
4. Water: Use a spray bottle to moisten the soil.
5. Cover: Place foil or a lid over the container to block light for the first day. This encourages leggy plants that will reach for the light, making them easier to harvest.

6. Light exposure: On day two or three, move the container to a sunny window or under grow lights.

7. Harvest: Once the first true leaves appear (after the cotyledons, baby leaves), it's time to harvest. Snip off the greens with clean scissors just above the soil level.

How to harvest and store microgreens

Once your microgreens are ready, use clean scissors to trim them just above the soil level. Be sure to harvest them fresh, as their shelf life is short. If you're not using them right away, store them in a container lined with a paper towel in the fridge. They'll stay fresh for about 3-5 days if kept cool and dry. Wash before eating.

Microgreens: A fun, low-time commitment winter gardening project

Microgreens offer an exciting way to keep your gardening spirit alive during the winter months. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, these little plants are a fun, fast-growing project that don't require a lot of space or time.

Why not give microgreens a try? They may just become your new favorite kitchen staple. Happy growing!

To learn more about microgreens, check out the CSU article: [Growing Microgreens](#)



*Growing microgreens can be an easy winter activity.
Photo credit: Nichole Rairigh*

WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING? 2025

A LOT! Larkspur Historical Society meetings will move from daytime to nighttime monthly meetings ...3rd Thursday each month at 6:30PM at the back room of the *Spur of the Moment*. Each meeting will have a formal *History Lesson* as well! Come join us and get involved.

2025 PROGRAMS



Earth, Wind, & Fire II

May 8 @ 7:00PM

Spur of the Moment...

A FATEFUL DAY



Aug 28 @ 7:00PM

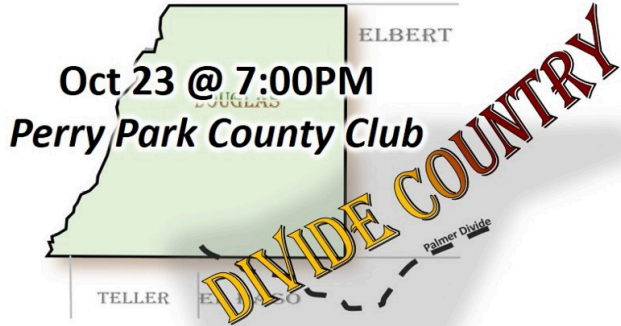
Perry Park County Club



SANDSTONE RANCH THROUGH TIME

Sep 25 @ 7:00PM

Spur of the Moment...



Oct.23 @ 7:00PM

Perry Park County Club

2025 WALKS

Larkspur Spruce Mountain Road Walks: May 31 & Sep 13 at 10AM

Old Town Larkspur Walk: Aug 16 at 10AM

All walks at the Larkspur History Information Cabin (Cabin 2)



RSVP to any program or walk: Nancy, 720.849.0718

Keep reading about us in each month's *Larkspur Sentinel* for more information about us.



The voice of history of southern Douglas County & Divide Country

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(FOR NEW ADVERTISERS. RATES WILL CHANGE AGAIN ONCE WE GO PRINT)

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each additional character is \$0.20 each
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Submit ad to larkspursentinel@gmail.com

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What are your neighbors saying about Wolfe Realty Group?

Feedback received from Curt and Marsha Prokuski

Regarding the sale of their home in Sterling Pointe, Larkspur

"Ben and Debbie thanks again for your assistance in selling our home. Your professionalism and market knowledge are top notch. "

Feedback received from Kelly and Rebecca Kline

Regarding the sale of their home in Hidden Forest, Larkspur

"Ben Wolfe and his assistant Debbie work hard! This is our fourth real estate transaction with them and another is sure to happen in the near future. They have had our full trust that all will go smoothly during each undertaking."

Feedback received from Joseph Smith

Regarding the sale of their home in Perry Park, Larkspur

"Ben Wolfe was very knowledgeable about real estate in the Larkspur area and attentive to our needs. I feel that we were able to sell at a better price because of his knowledge. He was truly willing to go the extra mile to make our selling experience easy and smooth. Because of his expertise, we were able to sell quickly and at a better than expected price. Highly recommend! "

Feedback received from Rick and Arina Biddle

Regarding the sale of their home in Perry Park East, Larkspur

"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. "



Ben Wolfe

**Managing Broker & Owner
Larkspur Resident**

Wolfe Realty Group, Inc.

Office: 303-681-3553 • Cell: 303-667-7995

Fax: 303-681-0678 • Home: 303-681-0679

Ben@DiscoverLarkspur.com

*If you have any real estate needs call Ben Wolfe,
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A walk on the wild side

Susan Peters, Contributor

**Early signs of spring...let's be jamming...
like butterflies?...short takes**



February, really?

'Tis that time of year again. The sandhill cranes have started to congregate in several spots in Colorado before they disperse to more secluded spots to procreate, many in Colorado. This is an opportunity to check out the babes and vice versa, along with the competition. Geese, and they were just here in Larkspur a couple of months ago.

Three main staging areas are located in Colorado. Two are found along the Yampa River near Hayden and the Elk River west of Steamboat Springs. The third is a large site located in the San Luis Valley. Staging areas are closely associated with water, since cranes almost always roost at night in large groups in shallow water and along gravel bars in rivers, typically short distances away from the staging areas. The water provides protection from predators.

Ah, February...the month that the bluebirds begin returning. The male goldfinches don their waist coats of brilliant yellow. The house finches drag out their babe magnet red feathers. And then the screeching evening grosbeaks, going for mating costumes that only Hollywood divas can provide, checking out feeding grounds as their other ones diminish.

Even the robins are pushing the envelope, grabbing a bath in our bird bath to start getting ready for romance.

With the warm weather in December, there were many sightings of bears out strolling around. I have no idea what they were eating with so much of their preferred vegetation dried up. Bet they like dried berries, and, of course acorns, which were plentiful this year. We even had early wildflowers blooming—the little pink ones with dark curly foliage.



Photo credit: Susan Peters

In your jammies

Yes, you can do your own backyard bird count with a cup of joe in your hand, still in your jams, while balancing your binoculars in your other hand. And then recording what you see. A partner comes in handy with this to do the documentation and bird book look up or refill your coffee cup. Often that person is called a “husband” or “wife” or “grunt.”

Then using the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory free app eBird, you can upload your photos to their expansive database.

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Cornell University, the Audubon Society, and other organizations are sponsoring this event. The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is February 14-17. For more information, go to audubon.org and search for GBBC.

Want to attract more butterflies (and hummingbirds)?

As the seed catalogs pile up in your abode, this chilly weather is a perfect time to plan your gardens and order seed for early planting indoors. You have to order milkweed for monarchs early, as it sells out quickly, and get the right species. Mine did great last year except that deer and rabbits munched it down to nothing. Bummer.

For monarchs, it is the perennial milkweed, as long as it is the correct species. There are 10 common ones that are suitable. Tropical milkweed is not, as it has a number of bad effects like carrying parasites that kill butterflies.

A garden that provides all the essentials for butterflies—including food, water, shelter, and breeding sites—is more likely to attract and retain these pollinators. Adding flat stones for basking, shallow water dishes, and sheltered areas can make your garden more hospitable. A real attractant is to plant nectar-rich flowers such as zinnias, lantanas, and coneflowers in sunny sites. And you want to have flowers blooming all season long.

For shelter, plant bushes in groupings and go light on the pruning. For water, make puddles—shallow dishes kept filled with water. Put flat rocks in the dishes for the butterflies to lie on. Also, to attract more butterflies, put out feeders in a sunny, accessible location, filling it with a solution of 4 parts water to one-part granulated sugar—same as for hummingbirds.

And, finally do not use pesticides on plants, unless it is certified to be free of noxious chemicals.

Short takes

Well, it is about time. The bald eagle has officially been named the national bird. It is on our money and statuary and has been for hundreds of years.

Speaking of, Jackie and Shadow of Big Bear, California have mated again. Jackie has been busy refurbishing the nest with fluffy material. Hopefully things will go better for them than last year. They had three eggs did that did not hatch supposedly due to the lower temperatures and high altitude.

Arlene and John McDaniel snapped this photo of a rare yellow cardinal in their Michigan backyard.



Photo credit: Arlene and John McDaniel

continued from previous page

And hubby Dave was able to catch a shot of this bobcat right outside our back door.

And the dire news continues. Near a quarter of animal species living in fresh water habits of rivers, lakes, ponds, bogs, wetlands, and streams will soon perish according to latest research. Causes include climate change, agriculture, pollution, dams, pollution, invasive species, and water extraction. Good grief. Of course, these are man-driven events.



Photo credit: Dave Peters

And more downer news. Recall six years ago the orca mom who carried her dead calf on her back for 17 days. It has happened again with this time J35 carrying her dead baby on her head. Causes of death of the calf are unknown, but plastics are suspected.

And if you are not much into spiders, stay away from Australia. The Newcastle funnel web spider used to be 2 cm. One was recently found that is 9 cm! It is the most poisonous spider in the world. "Big Boy" now resides in the Melbourne Zoo.



Photo credit: David Northall

The last couple of months, I have been inundated with nature photography winners. I will share some of them with you over the next few months. I did not think a honey badger could be bested by any critter, but a porcupine seems to have the last say in this Smithsonian photo winner by David Northall.

And, one way to keep warm this winter is the flock of gossiping bee-eaters from Africa and South America.

That's all folks for this month. Gotta run...a critter is digging up dirt through the cement cracks on the front portico...not good. It is going to find itself relocated to the Bear Dance Country Club. But it might like the social life there.



Photo credit: Alphacoders

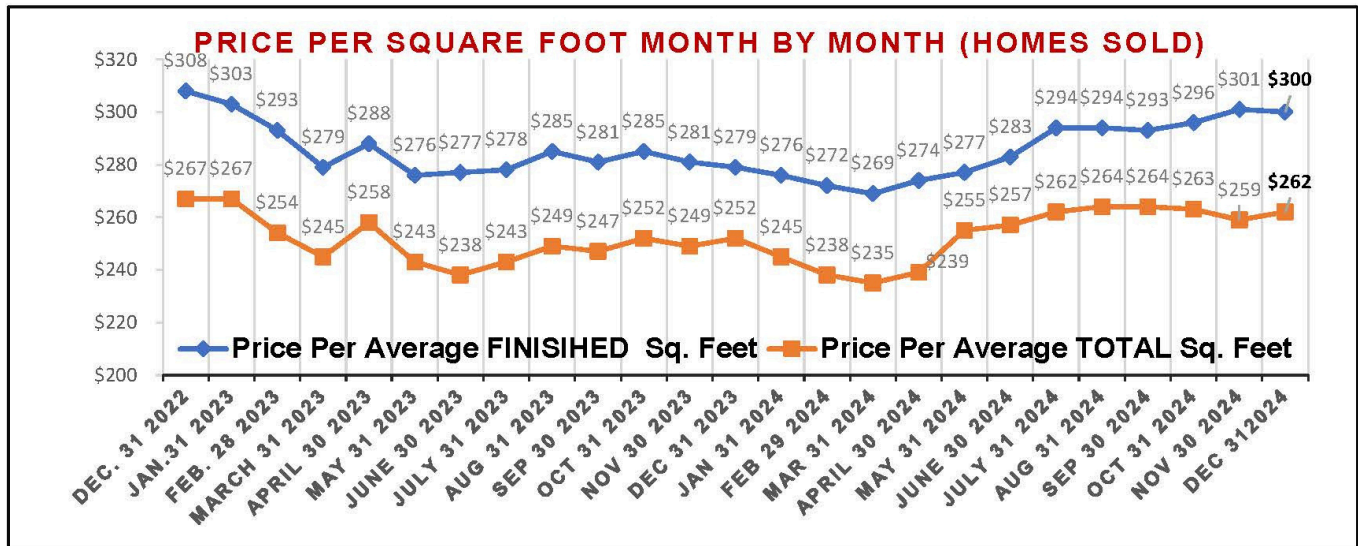
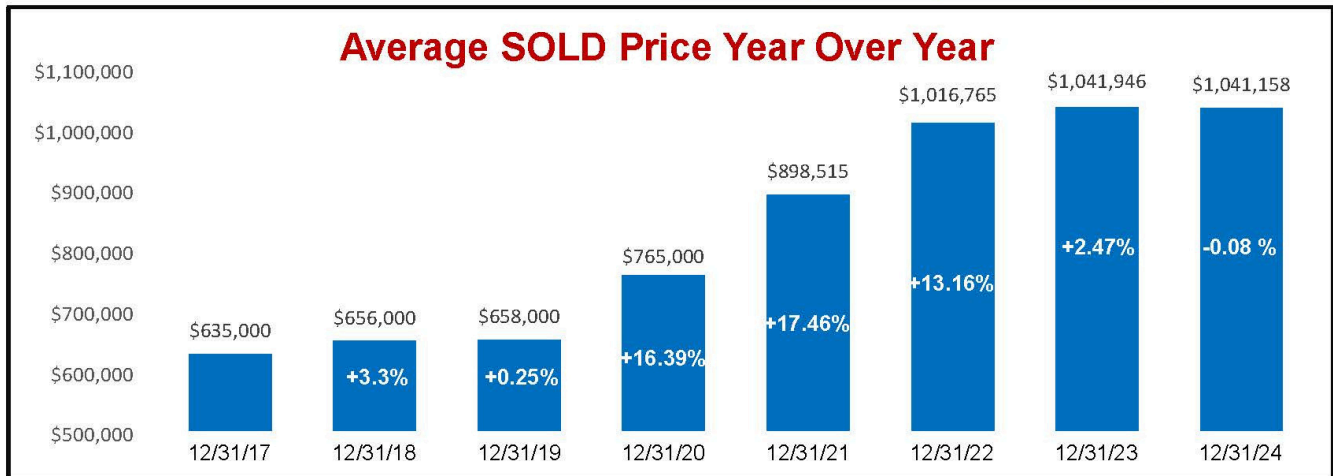
How to contact me: Email is best at susan@larsspurconsulting.com. Alternatively, call my cell phone at 303-725-6868 or send a short write-up to 2255 Quartz Mountain Drive.



Larkspur Area Real Estate Stats – HOMES SOLD

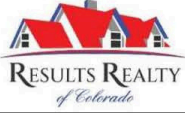
Homes Currently For-Sale (01/20/2025) ---27 (\$499,000 to \$3,400,000) --- Median \$999,000
Average Days on Market --- 85

Homes Currently “Under Contract” --- 12 (\$725,000 to \$1,425,000) --- Median \$1,179,000
Average Days on Market --- 116 **Homes U/C in the past 30-days = 6**



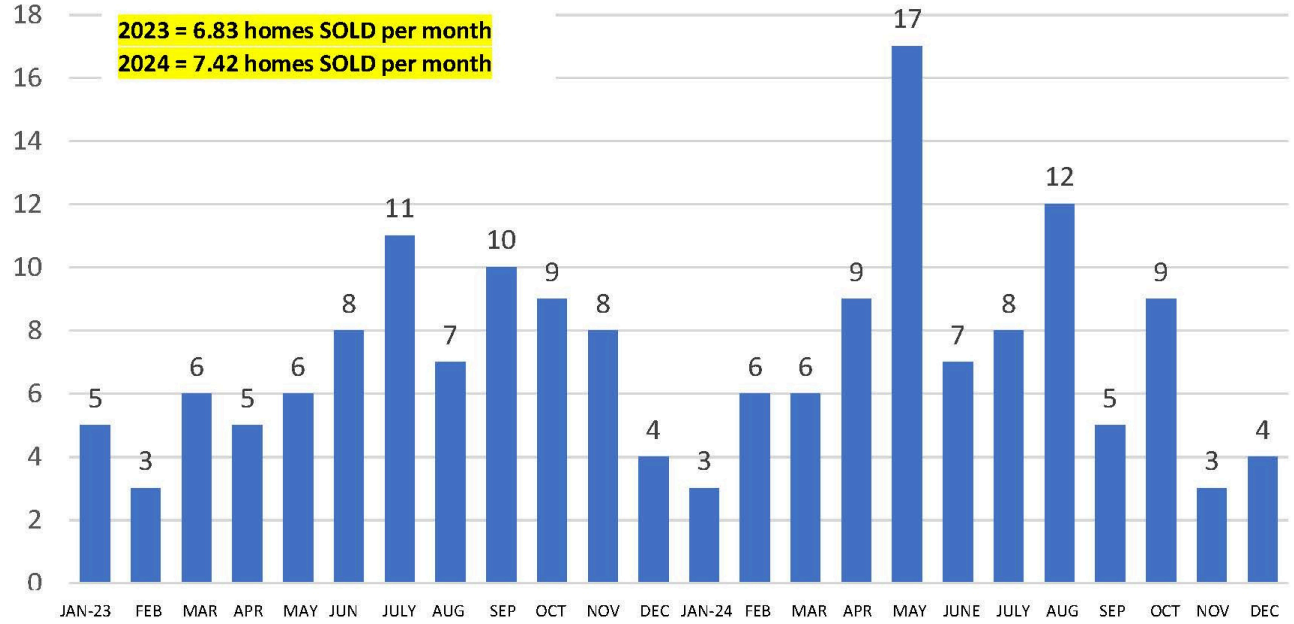
---The charts above represent a 6-month study of home sales ending on the last date of the month indicated. The top 2 and bottom 2 sales have been removed/deleted from each study. This is because very unusual properties can skew the factors that reflect actual market conditions. For example, a property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

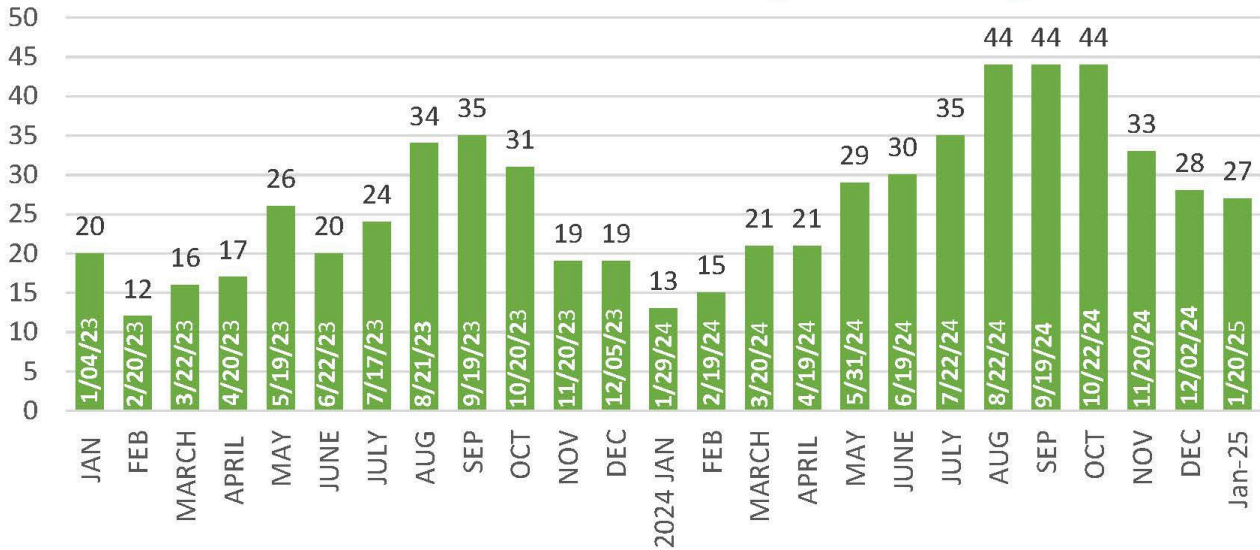


Larkspur Real Estate Stats

2023/2024 Homes SOLD in Larkspur Month by Month



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.

COMING SOON
\$864,900



View Property Website at
www.767tenderfootDrive.com

767 Tenderfoot Drive - Sage Port

Custom RANCH-STYLE Home with Fin. Walkout on SOUTH FACING 0.902-Acre lot. Discover the "main-floor" lifestyle. This home has 4,413 total Sq feet! Parking features include a heated 4-car garage, paved driveway and room for an RV.

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!

FOR SALE
\$264,900



5845 S Pike Drive - Perry Park

Beautiful READY-TO-BUILD Southeast-Facing 1-Acre Lot with soaring Ponderosa Pines in Perry Park. FLAT topography making it MUCH easier to build upon. All utilities are available at the road in front of the lot, and the road is paved.

UNDER CONTRACT
\$264,925



5815 S Pike Drive - Perry Park

READY-TO-BUILD Southeast-Facing 1-Acre Lot in Perry Park. This rare offering is very FLAT making it MUCH easier to build upon. Enjoy those soaring Ponderosa Pines! All utilities are at the road in front of the lot and the road is fully PAVED.

SOLD
\$220,000



6450 Apache Drive - Perry Park

1-Acre "READY TO BUILD" Lot in Perry Park BACKS TO OPEN SPACE and has TREMENDOUS MOUNTAIN VIEWS at the back of the lot!! Save approx. \$14K over other lots because of the PRE-PAID Water & Sewer Tap Fees.



303-681-1000
www.DaveGardnerRealEstate.com
LARKSPUR AREA SPECIALIST!

