

- Building Community
- Communicating with Neighborhood Homeowners
- Keeping Our Neighborhood Safe

February 2022 Newsletter

2022 Dates to Note

Mar 12 10:00 am-12:00 pm March Madness at CSCA Sports Ctr, 2560 Chelton Rd

Mar 24 6:30 – 7:30 pm Fire Mitigation meeting using Zoom

April 24 2:00 – 3:30 pm Garden Club, tentative date and time, location TBD

Week of May 9 – Free Chipping Program

May 13 – 15 Spring Clean-up and Neighborhood Garage Sale

CCHOA Website:

www.countryclubestateshoa.org

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Fire Mitigation Meeting Happening in March

It is that time of year to start planning for the Colorado Springs free wood chipping program. This year our neighborhood is scheduled for the wood chipping crew the weeks of May 9 and August 15. Due to increased workload, it may take the crews up to two weeks to complete the neighborhood chipping (May 9-20 and August 15-26).

To qualify for the chipping service, participants MUST attend a neighborhood meeting or onsite consultation within the past 5 years before the chipping date. Individual homeowners must register EVERY YEAR to participate. Registration can be done either online at https://arcg.is/OOKei0 or call (719) 385-7493. Registration is now open.

This year's neighborhood meeting will be March 24, 2022 from 6:30-7:30 PM via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81657669727). We have asked the Fire Department to address their 2022 Fire Mitigation plans, lessons learned from the Marshall fire, evacuation planning, and their new fire mitigation web site. If you cannot attend the Zoom meeting, we will be recording the meeting as well as getting a copy of the Fire Department presentation. Let Sandy Gallof, sgallof@comcast.net or 719 632-3144) know if you would like a copy of the recording and/or the presentation (either via email or hard copy).

Let's Mingle for March Madness

As many of you know, the NCAA Basketball organization sponsors tournaments in March where the best men's and women's college basketball teams compete to see who is the best of the best. In honor of these March Madness tournaments, we are kicking off our 2022 social events with some March Madness of our own.

Please join us on Saturday March 12 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Colorado Springs Charter Academy Sports Center, 2560 Chelton Road, for a fun-filled time for kids, grandkids, sports enthusiasts, and those who just want a chance to see their neighbors after this long, cold winter! Here are some of the highlights:

- Basketball activities for folks of all ages
- A chance to fill out brackets for your pick of NCAA winners
- Cookie Decorating for the young ones
- Dessert/Snack Potluck (and bring the recipe if it's homemade)
- Learn about Firewise and Trash programs
- Enjoy meeting and visiting with your neighbors

To help us with planning, please let us know by March 10, 2022 if you will be able to join us. Click on this link http://evite.me/6ANEAxpqUj to say you're coming or contact Kala Loptien at (970) 420-8928. We hope to see you there!

Details about Free Chipping Program

If you want to participate in the wood chipping program, the following ground rules apply:

- You must sign-up if you want your piles chipped. If you do not sign-up, your piles will not be chipped. See article about Fire Mitigation meeting on page 1 for specifics on how to sign-up.
- Piles must be stacked curbside by 8:00 am Monday morning during the designated chipping weeks.
- Piles must be stacked neatly and within 5' of the roadway.
- Please limit pile size to 5' x 5' x 5' with cut ends facing the roadway. No limit to the number of piles, but leave some space between each pile.
- Please do not combine piles with neighbors or haul material in from other neighborhoods.
- Do not tie or band piles.
- Piles only of woody limbs and branches, up to 9" in diameter.
- No construction or building material.
- No trash, weeds or yuccas.
- No root wads, dirt or rocks.
- No grass clippings.
- No bags of leaves or pine needles.
- Piles must be clear of nails and wire.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Melissa Hoffman, Wildfire Mitigation Program Coordinator, at Melissa.Hoffman@coloradosprings.gov or 719 385-7493.

Historic Neighborhood Partnership (HNP)

The Historic Neighborhoods Partnership (HNP) is addressing several issues that impact our neighborhood and the area around us. Specifically, it is working on identifying neighborhood concerns and developing recommendations regarding:

- ConnectCOS (to identify and prioritize short and long-term transportation projects). https://coloradosprings.gov/project/connectcos
- ReToolCOS (RetoolCOS will revise the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance, Chapter 7 of City Code. This ordinance governs how property owners can use their land.) https://coloradosprings.gov/project/retoolcos-zoning-ordinance-update
- Neighborhood demographics (to prepare for developing Historic/Neighborhood Characteristic Overlays to protect established neighborhoods as part of ReToolCOS)
- Above ground power lines (work with Utilities to address safety concerns, especially due to wind and fire)

Current HNP members include Bonnyville/Bon Park, Middle Shooks Run, Old North End, Near Old North End, Pleasant Valley, Mesa Springs, Skyway Association, and Country Club HOA.

Sandy Gallof is our representative to the HNP. If you want further information on HNP activities, please contact him at sgallof@comcast.net or 719 632-3144.

Colorado Tax Break for Fire Mitigation

With the last windstorm, we had significant tree damage in our neighborhood. The Colorado Springs Fire Department has stated that tree/branch removals can count as fire mitigation efforts, especially when the downed trees/branches were near houses. As many of you know, these removals can cost anywhere from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

Since we are in a wildland-urban interface, homeowners can claim a subtraction on their Colorado income tax return for certain costs incurred in performing wildfire mitigation measures on their property in a wildland-urban interface area within Colorado. The subtraction is equal to 50% of the qualifying costs for performing wildfire mitigation measures. The total subtraction a taxpayer can claim per tax year is limited to \$2,500. This deduction is available each year through 2024.

Wildfire mitigation measures that qualify for the subtraction are any of the following activities so long as such activities meet or exceed any applicable standards established by the Colorado State Forest Service or the Division of Fire Prevention and Control:

- creating a defensible space around structures;
- establishing fuel breaks; or
- thinning of woody vegetation for the primary purpose of reducing risk to structures from wildland fire.

In order to qualify for the subtraction, a cost must be an actual out-of-pocket expense incurred and paid by the taxpayer primarily for wildfire mitigation measures. A taxpayer must have a receipt documenting the cost of any wildlife mitigation measure for which the subtraction is claimed. Qualifying costs include:

- payment to a contractor to perform wildfire mitigation measures;
- the cost of a chainsaw if purchased primarily for wildfire mitigation measures

Limitations

- The total subtraction claimed on any return cannot exceed \$2,500, regardless of whether the return is for a single filer or joint filers.
- Additionally, the total subtraction claimed cannot exceed the federal taxable income reported on the return.
- If two taxpayers are legally allowed to file a joint return, but elect to file separately, only one of the two individuals can claim the subtraction.
- In the case of real property owned by tenants in common, the subtraction can be claimed by only one of the taxpayers in the ownership group.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- To claim the subtraction, a taxpayer must complete and submit a Subtractions from Income Schedule (DR 0104AD) form with their Colorado Individual Income Tax Return (DR 0104).
- The taxpayer must also submit copies of receipts documenting the qualifying costs for which the subtraction is claimed with their return.
- For electronically filed returns, scanned copies of receipts can be submitted either via e-file or by using the E-Filer Attachment function online at Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline.

For more details, see https://tax.colorado.gov/sites/tax/files/Income65.pdf

Available Resources to Help Prepare for Disasters

Given the recent Marshall fire, which destroyed over 1000 houses, and the current dry conditions in the Pikes Peak region, it's a good time to consider planning for what to do if such a disaster strikes our neighborhood. When disaster strikes, there is little to no time to plan for your family's safety.

The Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management has launched Pikes Peak Prepared, a new free app to help the community prepare ahead of time for disasters. With the Pikes Peak Prepared app you can:

- Create your own readiness plan
- Access digital guides, videos, checklists, and news articles
- Stay informed with the events schedule and weather alerts
- Receive non-emergency messages about how to get ready to help yourself and your community

Specifically it provides information on:

Wildfire Preparedness

Preparing for Access and Functional needs

Disaster Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners

Family Preparedness

Flood Preparedness

Psychological First Aid

Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

The app also provides checklists for Wildfire Readiness (Evacuation, protection against smoke, and reducing damage to your home), self-assessments for Wildfire Readiness, and frequently asked question/answers about wildfire preparedness.

In addition, it allows you to build your own emergency plan customized to your specific needs. Users can stay informed about upcoming events and receive alerts from FEMA and the National Weather Service. You can also receive emergency alerts about immediate threats in El Paso County by registering at www.peakalerts.org. Additional resources, surveys, and announcements will be added regularly. Pikes Peak Prepared is available to download for free at Apple App Store or Google Play

Other sources of wildfire preparation information are https://www.coswildfireready.org/ (similar to the Pikes Peak Prepared App, but is a website and not an app) and https://admin.elpasoco.com/pproem/ This latter web page includes:

- Wildfire Preparedness and Risk Reduction
- Preparing for Wildfire Guide
- Winter Storm Preparedness Guide
- Emergency Financial First Aid Kit
- First Aid Kit Contents Checklist
- <u>family emergency plan</u>
- Emergency plan wallet cards for back-to-school English | Spanish
- Resolve to be Ready Colorado Springs
- A message about planning for people with disabilities
- Flash Flood Preparedness Guide for the Pikes Peak Region
- Make a Plan Pack a Kit Be Informed: El Paso County Emergency Preparedness Tips
- Download a family communication plan in English or Spanish

How to Avoid Being a Crime Victim

Do you know that, per the Colorado Springs Police Department, one thing criminals do not like is a fully lit neighborhood? If you do not have a light timer system, there is a cheap alternative to automatically light up areas inside and outside your house from dusk to dawn. Amazon has dusk to dawn LED light bulbs (3 pack) for \$12.99. https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08RNK2BRP/ref=ox_sc_act_title_1?smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER&th=1 There are similar bulbs at Lowes, Home Depot, Target, and Ace Hardware.

If you see a street light in our neighborhood that is not working, you can contact City Utilities at https://coloradosprings.gov/public-works-operations-maintenance-division/webform/street-maintenance or call (719) 385-5934, Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division. If you have problems with either method, contact Sandy Gallof (719 632-3144, and provide him the outage specifics so he can report it to the City.

Other simple things you can do to avoid being a crime victim include:

- Ensuring all outer doors and windows are locked before leaving the house or going to sleep. This includes your garage door and the house door to the garage.
- If you leave your car outside for the night, ensure there are no valuables inside the car, the car is locked and, if the car has an alarm system, ensure it is on.
- Don't open the door for strangers.
- Tell a trusted neighbor or friend to keep an eye on your house when you are out of town.
- Don't post on social media about leaving on vacation.
- Keep blinds closed and curtains drawn to keep potential thieves from seeing where you keep your valuables, which rooms are regularly unoccupied, and how often you're away from home.
- Keep valuables and potentially dangerous items locked up where they can't be seen can also help prevent your home from being targeted.
- Get involved with your neighbors in a Neighborhood Watch group

The Colorado Springs Police Department, during the period of September 23, 2021 to January 27, 2022, responded to the following incidents in our neighborhood: 23 Traffic Incidents (16 Offenses, 7 Accidents), 5 Auto Burglaries, 4 Suspicious Circumstances, 2 Subjects with Weapons, 2 Identity Thefts, 2 Thefts, 2 Assists Fire Medical, and 1 each of Abandoned Vehicle, Alarm, Animal Incident, Assault, Death, Disturbance, Domestic Violence, Explosion, Harassment, Indecent Exposure, Suicide. More details can be found at: http://www.myneighborhoodupdate.net or https://communitycrimemap.com

Be Safe Out There – Update from the Safety Committee

The goal of our HOA Safety Committee is to help all of us live in a safer neighborhood. The Committee, consisting of Sandy Gallof, Dave May, Jason Carter, Bob Frye, and Steve Paradis, has as its goals to keep all neighbors informed of the latest information regarding fire dangers, criminal activities, traffic issues, and suggested ways to mitigate these dangers. If you have any safety questions or concerns, feel free to contact Sandy Gallof at sgallof@comcast.net or 719 632-3144.

CCHOA Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee delivers a Welcome Packet which provides all the necessary information and forms needed for our new homeowners to review, as well as answers any questions they may have. In 2020, 17 new homeowners joined our neighborhood and in 2021, we welcomed 23 new homeowners.

The CCHOA Welcome Committee at the present time has 5 committee members: Dorothy Hornby, Mary Corrow, Jennifer Williamson, Sylvia Holt and Maureen Logue. If you have any questions about the Welcome Committee or would like to receive a Welcome Packet, please contact Dorothy Hornby at <a href="mailto:dorothy-nc-action-committee-at-nc-action-com

Speeding in Our Neighborhood

All residential streets in Colorado Springs with no posted speed limits have a default of 25 MPH. There are times we all observe traffic that appears to be going much faster than that. This happens particularly after cars have turned onto a street and have accelerated for a block or so. One neighbor, David Corrow, observed this happening on Country Club Dr. and he contacted the city to do a traffic study.

The initial results of the study did not show excessive speeding, and this was attributed to the location used for tracking the speed. It was right after the intersections of Country Club Dr and Paseo Rd, so the cars had not yet accelerated to their max speed. David discussed this with the city, and as a result the city has installed 25 MPH speed limit signs at each end of Country Club Dr.

The speed limit sign of 30 MPH on Paseo Rd was knocked down recently, and this also was reported to the city. A new speed limit sign was installed within a couple of weeks.

The city does respond to reports of traffic and other issues. The coloradosprings.gov website has a 'report a problem' link https://coloradosprings.gov/page/citizen-request-gocosprings-app which will guide you on how to report a variety of problems. Please use this site to help improve the safety of our neighborhood.

Palmer Park - Our Outdoor Neighbor

Do you love living in the front-yard of Palmer Park? Maybe you walk your dog there... or bike on the roads... or hike the well-groomed trails? Or maybe you just appreciate its beauty from the comfort of your home?

However you choose to enjoy our "neighborhood park," did you know it takes volunteers to help the city of Colorado Springs to maintain Palmer Park in the condition we can all enjoy?

The Guardians of Palmer Park (GOPP) is a volunteer organization whose mission is to "...enhance, protect, defend, and maintain the physical integrity, natural beauty, and physical resources of Palmer Park in Colorado Springs, CO." The GOPP was founded in 2009 by neighbors and friends of the park. The Guardians can take credit for a great deal of the maintenance to the trail system throughout the park. They also sponsor volunteer clean up days and if you observe damage or graffiti in the park, they appreciate it being brought to their attention.

To learn more about the Guardians of Palmer Park, or to volunteer to help on a clean-up day, visit www.gopalmerpark.org/

Join the CCHOA Grateful Deadheaders Garden Group

The "Grateful Deadheaders" is our neighborhood garden group which has met the last Sunday of each month April through September since 2020.

Everyone is welcome to join us to learn about the monthly special gardening topic, as well as to discuss our various gardening issues, share bulbs and plant clippings, and to visit some of our well-landscaped neighborhood gardens. With our members' various levels of expertise and interest, we are willing to offer ideas and advice on anyone's plant questions and landscaping challenges. No gardening expertise or experience required – just bring your interest in gardening!

Contact Janice Marie-Gallof at (719) 632-3144 or jmgallof@comcast.net) for information about upcoming meeting dates and locations. We hope to have our first garden club meeting of the season on April 24, 2022.

Mark Your Calendar for These Social Activities

The CCHOA Social Committee (Amanda Schneider, Bill Hoover, Kala Loptien, Janice Marie-Gallof, and Susan Henderson) have been busy planning different types of social activities in 2022. We look forward to the opportunities to gather together and spend time getting to know our neighbors. Keep these dates in mind:

May 13 - 15 – Spring Clean Up Weekend

We will host a neighborhood garage sale and provide signage and advertising. Two roll-off dumpsters will be available for those items which are no longer usable. We will also be pursuing having a donation truck on-site to take those items which are in need of a new home.

July 16 – Ice cream social and live music, 2-4 p.m.

HOA will provide ice cream and music for all to enjoy.

Sept 10 – Block Party, 11 am – 2 pm

HOA will provide meats and drinks. Those attending will bring their favorite picnic side dishes and desserts.

Oct 14 - 16 - Fall Clean Up Weekend

Depending on interest, this could be similar to the Spring Clean-up Day, or be scaled back to just the roll-offs.

We would really like to hear your suggestions for neighborhood events. Please fill out the attached survey at this link to share your thoughts about types of activities you would like to participate in: https://forms.gle/cVXch8ir9akq6a7z6. Or fill out the survey form on page 8 of this newsletter and put it in Marty Henderson's secure mailbox at 3132 Lees Lane.

Join Us in Supporting Our Homeowner's Association

On January 28, 2022, your CCHOA Board sent out VOLUNTARY invoices to Country Club Estates homeowners who are not currently participating in the neighborhood trash program (and thus have already paid dues). In 2021, 217 homeowners out of 314 paid these voluntary dues. That's over 69% of our homeowners! Your voluntary board thanks you for these contributions to our efforts to provide more services to our neighborhood.

What are these services? Here are some of the activities your HOA dues support:

- A negotiated and board-managed contract with Waste Connections to provide a preferred neighborhood trash and recycling service at a cost much lower than other providers;
- Social events: block parties, neighborhood garage sales, books sales, and music events;
- Three newsletters a year to share event schedules and information about neighborhood activities and broader topics;
- Annual meeting on fire mitigation and the COS Fire Dept Chipping Program in order to maintain the neighborhood's Firewise Certification (which may reduce the cost of your homeowners insurance);
- Participation of HOA Board members in organizations such as the Historic Neighborhoods Partnership and city-held meetings in order to promote and protect our neighborhood.
- The CCHOA website (<u>www.countryclubestates.org</u>) with useful information about our neighborhood, the trash collection program, and an easy method of paying annual dues.

Our Country Club HOA dues are only \$30 per year and have not increased since the HOA was formed in 1999. Our all-volunteer board and committee members work diligently to minimize expenses while providing services, events and communications that benefit each of us.

So if you haven't already contributed, come join us...we'll all be better for it!

CCHOA Social Activities Survey

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Meet Your 2022 CCHOA Board

During the CCHOA annual meeting on October 23, 2021, new board members were voted in, and we had the opportunity to thank those who are moving on from serving as board members. Filling all the positions for our Board can be difficult as each year Board members are rolling off and new ones are needed to fill the vacancies. An active CCHOA Board is important to maintain the safety and character of our neighborhood as well as give us a voice beyond our neighborhood. We continue to partner with Council Of Neighbors and Organizations (CONO) and Historic Neighborhoods Partnership (HNP) which interact with City Council and City departments on zoning issues that impact our neighborhood as well as other similar neighborhoods throughout the city.

We had turnover in four key Board positions this year; President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. We are grateful for the service of each of the individuals who gave their volunteer time in these positions over several years to help our neighborhood. Vonney Northrop served as President over the past 2 years, and she kept the CCHOA Board going through Covid and the challenges that brought to our social events. Janice Marie-Gallof served as Vice-President for 4 years as well as leading the Social Committee. We appreciate all she has done to develop and promote social events as well as spearheading the creation and distribution of a book on the history of our neighborhood. Sanford Gallof has served as Secretary for 4 years and has been the glue to our board for procedures and keeping us on track. He continues to work for our neighborhood as he represents us with the HNP and their work with City Council. Marty Henderson has served as Treasurer for 4 years and he has expanded the use of Quickbooks to bill each home as well as started the trash program with Waste Connections.

We were fortunate this year to be able to fill those key positions and maintain a vibrant and active CCHOA board. We are grateful for the people that volunteered to serve on the Board for the next two years in these positions:

President – Marty Henderson Vice-President – Bill Hoover Secretary – Amanda Schneider Treasurer – Ken Francois

Directors-At-Large

CONO Representative – Ken François

HNP Representative – Sanford Gallof

Safety Committee – Sanford Gallof

Communications – Vicki Tostanoski

Welcome Committee – Dorothy Hornby

In October 2022, we will again be looking for new people to service on the board. In particular, the Communications and Welcome Committee positions will be available. Please consider serving on the CCHOA Board to help our neighborhood and neighbors.

Vast amounts of information about CCHOA can be found on our website www.countryclubestateshoa.org

- Accumulation of articles on safety issues relevant to every homeowner
- Community Events
- Dues and Trash Program
- Volunteer Opportunities
- HOA documents; Board meeting minutes which include financial reports, newsletters, covenants info, etc.
- Board information.

Join the 173 Neighbors Using the Waste Connections Trash Program

In the past 2 months we have added 10 more homes to the HOA Trash Program for a total of 173 homes out of 315. Over half the homes in the HOA are now participating in the HOA trash program. We are optimistic more will join the program now that it is in its fourth year. Besides saving you money, it will decrease truck traffic in our neighborhood as more and more homes switch over.

The trash program is done for the benefit of our neighborhood. The HOA does not charge any fees for this service, however we do ask you to pay the \$30 HOA annual dues. The program saves each homeowner money as we have a group discount with Waste Connections. There are also savings since the Treasurer of the HOA does the billing instead of Waste Connections.

If you are interested in signing up for the Trash Service or have any questions about it, please contact Marty Henderson at (719) 377-8003 or mghenderson55@gmail.com. You can also find specific information about costs as well as the forms to request trash service on the CCHOA website: www.countryclubestateshoa.org

Improvements with Waste Connections Trash Service

Waste Connections bought Springs Waste in the spring of 2021, becoming the largest trash provider in Colorado Springs. They have undergone a lot of changes as they merged Springs Waste operations into their own and it was a challenging transition as they trained drivers on new routes. In the last few months, they have turned the corner and are once again delivering consistent service to our neighborhood.

If your bin isn't picked up by 6:00 pm on the day of the pickup, please notify Marty Henderson that evening so he can reach them the next day to get a truck back to our neighborhood. You can contact Marty Henderson via phone call or text at (719) 377-8003 or mghenderson55@gmail.com.

Recent improvements to note:

Recycle pickup is now weekly

In September, Waste Connections changed from a bi-weekly recycle pickup to a weekly pickup at the same cost and a 96 gallon recycle bin. This is a big improvement as it makes it easier for everyone to remember to put both bins out every week. It is also a big help for those of us who generate a lot of recycle materials.

Pickup in our Neighborhood is early, starting at 7:00AM

They have switched from late afternoon pickup to morning pickup for our neighborhood. Please have your trash and recycle bins out by 7:00AM so you aren't missed. Note that all trash in your trash bin should be bagged and not loose. Pet waste should be double-bagged. These are safety rules for the trash person dumping the trash from your bin into the truck.

Stay Informed with the WasteConnect App

Waste Connections provides a free App, WasteConnect, for you on Apple App Store or Google Play. This App is very useful keeping you up-to-date on pickup dates for trash and recycle.