



CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS

Inside Idaho Springs

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Colorado Boulevard Work Finally Underway

After over ten years of waiting and more than a year of intense planning, we are happy to report work on Phase II of the Colorado Blvd Reconstruction Program officially began on March 14. As the project moves forward, the City and the Contractor, American Civil Constructors (ACC), will make a concerted effort to provide regular information and updates. As we begin this long-awaited project, here are some facts residents should be aware of:

- Work has begun at Riverside Drive and will move west, ending at 7th Avenue.
- There will be road closures from time to time; in fact, access to Riverside Drive at Colorado is already closed. Detours will be well-marked so traffic can move through town with a minimum of trouble; however, some delays will be inevitable.
- Crews will be working from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. No week-end work is planned.
- The utility work in the project is limited to public infrastructure but access to private utility lines will be readily accessible. Property owners with service lines running into Colorado Blvd are strongly encouraged to consider updating or replacing their private water and/or sewer lines while the construction is underway. It is likely to be less expensive now than if the work is done at another time. ACC will assist in coordinating completion of work with a private contractor. The cost of work on private property is at the owner's expense. Contact the project hotline at **303-317-3311** for more information about work on private properties.
- The City's website will be updated regularly with information about the project.

Meanwhile, the design and engineering for Phase III is moving forward. Watch for notice of a public meeting to display the plans in May or June.

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Not such a sleepy town...

Despite the air, our little town is not the metaphoric sleepy town. There is activity almost every night whether passers-through stop at our 24 hour gas stations or people wander between workplace west and home place east. Delivery trucks, gas trucks, tow trucks, fire trucks and construction trucks trek through town at all hours. Although ever so light in the wee hours there is always movement. And, it's not all innocent.

As calm as it may seem we must always be aware that where there is opportunity there is risk of crime. Regardless of the hour, we in the public safety community ask everyone to be aware. Please lock your doors, batten down the hatches and remember those who would do us or our property harm often prefer the path of least resistance. While cinema often depicts elaborate entries using high tech self-hoisting cables remotely controlled and full body harnesses, the average burglar prefers the front door or makes easy work of defeating the window screen.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics there is an annual average of 3,713,000 household burglaries each year. Of those almost 30% involved dwelling and buildings where someone was home or present. Many times the would-be burglar will abort upon realizing they are entering an occupied structure.

Other times, matters turn worse or much worse.

Our advice to you? Be aware of your surroundings. Don't get lulled into feeling you are in a "safe neighborhood". Know your neighbors and help one another in keeping your neighborhood safe. Above all, call 911 if you observe something suspicious. We often hear "we did not want to bother the police". It's no bother. It's what you pay us for.

In other news, on Saturday, April 30, 2016 cities around the nation will be partaking in a prescription drug take back. The Idaho Springs Police Department and local members of the Colorado Mounted Rangers, Colorado's statewide law-enforcement auxiliary, will be staffing a collection station at the Idaho Springs city hall at 17th Street and Miner Street between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. The drop off location will be the east curb line on 17th Street on the west side of city hall.

The site will accept narcotics and controlled substances, prescription medications including pills, inhalers, creams/ointments and patches as well as over the counter medications. The site will also accept pet medications. This is a no questions asked program. The site cannot accept intravenous medications or IV bags. Check with your medical provider to determine the safest way to dispose of these.

Finally, Operation Aspen Leaf, an interagency endeavor targeting criminal trespass and the impacts of illegal and unethical campsites is on line. Although the goal is to protect the rights of property owners who have been victims of illegal encroachment and abate the impacts of over use or unethical practices, law enforcement and public service agencies throughout the county also desire to identify individuals and families who engage in trespass but because of their circumstances are eligible for support services. We very much want to identify these individuals and put them on a path to stable housing, recovery and if possible employment.

The initiative is being spearheaded by the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office. Members of the Idaho Springs Police Department are tasked with identifying impact areas, establishing contact with property owners in the region and engage violations within the city. The interagency workgroup requests citizens to report incidents of criminal trespass both within the city and in the surrounding county. As outlined the endeavor will prove to be one of unprecedented corroboration between numerous agencies and social service organizations.

Cheers!
Chris



Upcoming Events

- June 4, 8th Annual Summer Kick-Off Parade and Free BBQ downtown
- June 11, Democrats Rally at Courtney Ryley Cooper Park
- June 17-19, Rocky Mountain Rumble at the Ballfields
- June 24-26, RapidGrass Bluegrass Festival at the Ballfields
- July 4, Music festivities downtown 2 to 9 pm, FIREWORKS to follow

Mayor's Message

Good Spring to all in Idaho Springs. It has been a great Winter. With the weather being very nice to us for the most part, we now prepare for Summer. Flowers are ordered and our city crew is ready to clean up and get ready.

As everyone can see, we have started our Phase 2 portion of Colorado Blvd. We know there will be some pain with this project and we will continue to do our part as the City to listen and address problems and concerns.

Another thing we are moving forward with is the planning for our parking structure. This is something that has long been needed for our community and we are getting closer. In the

near months we will be working on site plans and concepts so stay tuned. This is an important project to continue to make our local economy thrive.

Beginning on Miner Street from the bridge east, we are starting the road repairs that were promised to you with the sales tax increase. *(see story page 4)*

The City has received a planning grant for the Greenway Trail in Idaho Springs. This was much needed to be able to continue the plans and tie it in with Phase 3 of Colorado Blvd. The design team is now working on that part of the roadway and we will be seeing those designs soon.

Still in everyone's mind is the

CDOT construction that we are still dealing with. The roundabout is almost done and they should finish up early June. Council took a tour of Water Wheel Park and we are very pleased with what it has become. This is a wonderful addition to that part of the trail. All construction on our ramps is scheduled to be complete by early June. Cross your fingers!

Thanks to our community for your continued patience with the construction. We are moving ahead and we will continue to make Idaho Springs a great place to live.

It is wonderful to be your Mayor. Please contact me anytime.

Meetings, meetings and more meetings...

It's not only the regular Council meetings and work sessions each month. The Mayor, Council Members and Staff serve on a wide variety of other boards and attend many other meetings as well, representing the City and its interests.

The City is represented on the Clear Creek Fire Authority Board, the Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation Board, the Project Support Board, the Idaho Springs Library Building Activity Committee, the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Maintaining a close working relationship with the County, Mayor Hillman attends the quarterly Mayors and Commissioners meetings and is often invited to serve on county-wide task forces.

Chief Malanka attends regular meetings with surrounding law enforcement agencies to share information and maintain good working relationships.

As might be imagined, there are countless meetings with CDOT about I-70 impacts and planning.

From time to time, City representatives have occasion to meet with a variety of other outside agencies including the State Department of Local Affairs, US Forest Service, State Parks and Wildlife, Clear Creek School District, Great Outdoors Colorado, Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District and the Clear Creek Greenway Authority.

That's a lot of meetings but it's all in the City's best interests.

Test your observation skills

How well do you know the little details around town?

Can you identify this one?



Answer: Discharge from the Argo Treatment Facility, across the creek from Courtney Riley Cooper Park.

Public Works plans busy summer

Every year the Public Works Department is challenged to schedule most of its projects into the short season when the weather is accommodating. That means summer and early fall. This year, a couple of paving projects are in the plans. Public Works Superintendent John Bordoni says he hopes to get Miner Street from the bridge to the Visitor Center redone along with Soda Creek Road from Miner Street to the city limits just beyond the Indian Springs Resort. Both projects will include new pavement, sidewalks, curb and gutter, stormwater drainage and underground water and sewer lines.

It's not as easy as simply hiring a contractor to pour some concrete and lay down some new asphalt. The City is currently getting cost proposals for the engineering work that must come first. Bordoni hopes that getting the engineering work done this early in the year will leave enough time to get the actual street work done this season.

These projects will be paid for by the voter-approved sales tax increase. Voters will recall the additional sales tax generated is dedicated for street improvements.

These street projects will have to be coordinated with the work being done on Colorado Blvd., to ensure that detours remain open and there will always be a way for traffic to get in and out of the downtown area.

Other projects on the Public Works list for 2016 include new picnic tables at Courtney Ryley Cooper Park and the much-needed rehabilitation of Macy/Ruth Mill Park.

Meanwhile, all the usual work by the Public Works crew will be ongoing. Parks will be mowed, flowers will be planted, trash will be collected from the downtown bins, curbs will be painted where needed, streets will be cleaned, potholes will be patched and it's anyone's guess what else may come up.



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