



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Administration	Christy Doon - City Administrator	September 17, 2024

Administration and Human Resources

- The City was awarded several grants over the last couple of weeks:
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant - \$187,000. In partnership with Chaffee County, this funding will assist us in coordinating more region-wide sustainability efforts.
 - Department of Local Affairs Renewable and Clean Energy Initiative - \$386,250. Installation of solar panels on the new fire station.
 - Colorado IRA Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program - \$250,000. These funds will allow the city to increase engagement in the adopt-a-tree program, focusing on the East Side of town and along Oak Street.
 - Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments Mini-Grant Program - \$1625. We will use these funds to purchase and install new bike racks at the Toubert Building.

Arts and Culture

- An exhibit was hung in the Paquette Gallery featuring works by a selection of artists from last year's Valley Visions Art Show that won jury and/or audience accolades. The artists were recognized at the reception held during the monthly Creative Mixer, which was attended by 45 people. Additionally, local musician Jamie Adamson entertained the attendees.
- The Community Mosaic Project kicked off with twice-weekly workshops where members of the community are assisting artist Anne Walker with the physical design of panels for a river and trout mural which will be installed on the playground surround at Chisolm Park. The project is approved and partially funded by the Public Art Commission.
- The performance highlights of the month came from both the continuation of the free Summer Concert and the annual Jazz Fest in Riverside Park. The two performances were attended by a total of 2,750 people.
- The SteamPlant and Scout Hut played host venues to many municipal, county, educational, business and non-profit groups, including Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Starpoint, Dept. of Human Services, Collegiate Peaks Forum Series, Chaffee County Clerk & Recorder, Heart of the Rockies Bar Assoc., RedLine Art and Water Education Colorado. All total the LISTED events/meetings were attended throughout the month by 497.
- TOTAL GUESTS Attending 54 Events/Meetings for August = 4,628
 - Number of free arts and culture events/no admission = 18
 - Number of attendees at free events = 3,056
 - Number of events paying rental fees = 24
 - Number of entities using the facilities = 32





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City Clerk

- Processed 6 CORA requests. We have processed 64 CORA requests so far in 2024.
- Processed several amplified sound permits for a total of 156 permits issued this year.
- Processing a few new liquor licenses, a transfer of liquor license, a change of location and several Liquor License renewals.
- Processing a transfer of ownership for 1 retail marijuana business which will go before the Marijuana Licensing Authority soon.
- The September Municipal Court has 36 cases.
- Attended the Special Event committee meeting to review the upcoming September and October special events
- We have advertised hiring a new Deputy City Clerk because Amanda is leaving us at the end of December. We will be interviewing candidates in the next couple of weeks.

Community Development

- Building Permits: Building permits continue to be slightly slower relative to recent years—very likely related to existing higher interest rates but also expectations of interest rates falling in the near future—which has us gearing up for an influx towards the end of the year/beginning of next. Thus far through 9/12/24, we have seen 104 total building permits, including 150 new residential units. At this time in 2023, we had seen 191 total building permits, inc. 123 new residential units. In 2022, we had seen 138 total building permits, inc. 58 new residential units. In 2021, we had seen 172 total building permits, inc. 139 new residential units.
- 1st and D Apartments Project: Artspace has chosen MW Golden, out of Castle Rock, to be the general contractor on the project. MWG will assist with final designs, coordinate cost estimating, and eventually commence construction (estimated early 2025). MWG is currently finalizing a relatively similar affordable workforce housing project (22 rental units) in Frisco called Granite Park.
- CHFA Landbanking Grant: Negotiations continue with property owners to help acquire land on the east side of town for future lower-income senior living apartments and an adjacent public park using \$750K from Prop 123 and CHFA. Additional funds for the acquisition will come from the housing fund and potentially open space fees. Council will hopefully see contracts on the property in the coming weeks.
- APA Colorado 2024 Conference: Bill and Kristen will be attending the conference held Oct. 2-4 in Loveland. Bill will also be presenting a session on the South Ark Neighborhood Master Plan process, along with the consultants from Studio Seed, as an example of a large project with a multitude of interests and the sausage-making of consensus and concessions.
- Planning Commission Vacancy: Ads for the Planning Commission vacancy have been inserted into the paper, advertised on social media, and posted on flyers around town. The announcement currently closes September 23rd and it is expected that interviews with City Council will happen sometime in October.
- New Year's Eve Downtown Celebration: Plans are in the works for a fun downtown New Year's Eve event with a Salida-style "ball drop" this year. Details forthcoming, but we will be encouraging downtown businesses to remain open late that night and perhaps to even host events that will complement the countdown and help ring in the New Year right.

Finance

- Staff continues to work with the Finance Committee and Council on the 2025 spending plan (budget).
- Work continues with UMB Bank on an updated Financial Management Plan
- Required SEC continuing disclosure reporting for the Certificates of Participation issued to finance the fire station has been completed.



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- An intern (Kyndra Johnson) joined the Finance Office work team. Kyndra hopes to be an accountant and I have no doubt she will be a fantastic one.
- Kristen Hussey is back to work full time, she reports that she only had a bit of catch up and rework to do since we all worked hard to keep her work accurately up to date

Finance Office - Key Operating Metrics - 2024								
	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Number of front desk customers served	264	212	167	212	214	154	255	241
Number of invoices paid	364	328	338	443	353	353	472	402
Number of utility bills processed	4,261	4,263	4,268	4,270	4,292	4,298	4,315	4,328
Number of online utility payments received	2,704	2,725	2,778	2,746	2,769	2,805	2,780	2,855
Number of delinquent utility accounts processed	325	383	397	294	371	374	334	375
Number of journal entries prepared	90	75	87	59	59	47	46	55
Number of payroll checks processed	456	341	321	478	314	317	387	329
Number of utility service orders processed	183	94	95	85	78	48	94	64
Number of new construction utility accounts set up	22	21	10	7	5	5	4	12
Number of Accounts Receivable billings	39	36	50	54	51	43	48	36

Fire

- Rattlesnakes-Rattlesnakes can be very dangerous in the fall because the cooler temperatures make them more likely to be out during the daylight hours. As they prepare for hibernation, they need to hunt and consume more food to build up their energy reserves. This increase in activity means that hikers, campers, and anyone enjoying the great outdoors should be extra cautious. Wearing sturdy boots and long pants can



help protect against bites, and it's wise to stay on well-trodden paths where snakes are less likely to be encountered. Always be aware of your surroundings and listen for the telltale rattle, which serves as a warning to keep your distance.

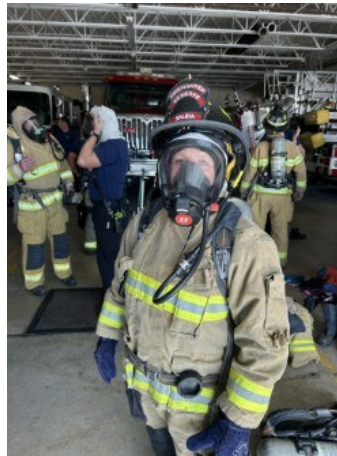


- Gas Leak-The Salida Fire Department (SFD) responded to a gas leak at Chilcott Street and Blake Avenue caused by damage to a 2-inch high-pressure gas line during construction. Crews evacuated a two-block radius due to safety concerns, checked gas levels in nearby homes, and deployed handlines. The Salida Police controlled traffic, while Chaffee County EMS stood by for medical assistance. Atmos Energy was called for repairs. The incident was resolved safely with no injuries, demonstrating effective coordination among agencies to ensure community safety.



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- Fire Ops 101- The Salida Fire Department organized a Fire Ops 101 class to showcase various tasks performed by firefighters. This program aims to educate the public and enhance their understanding of the challenging work that firefighters undertake. During this session, department heads participated and had the opportunity to enter the live burn trailer provided by the state. Currently, Salida and the South Valley lack a dedicated live burn facility, but this is a goal that Chief Jonke is actively pursuing.
- Intergovernmental Agreement - The Salida Fire Department and South Arkansas Fire Protection are currently finalizing details of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to deliver fire services to the Salida area. Many may not be aware that these two organizations collaborate closely and are both led by Chief Jonke. The primary objective of the South Arkansas board is to ensure community fire protection, and they are presenting a plan aimed at retaining firefighters, as recent studies show that wages are 23% below the midpoint.



- Commemorating 9-11-The fire department will always honor the memory of the 343 firefighters who tragically lost their lives in 2001. In tribute to the brave and perilous journey they undertook that day, firefighters ascended the bleacher stairs at the high school to pay homage. Our firefighters remain prepared to make sacrifices for our community.
- Firehouse Construction Update - The construction of the firehouse is progressing smoothly and is expected to be finished by the end of the year. This new facility is long overdue, as it replaces the existing firehouse, which is 124 years old—well beyond the typical lifespan of 75 years. Currently, paint is being applied to the drywall,



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and interior details are beginning to take shape. Members of the department are thrilled about the new facility, as it will significantly enhance training opportunities.



Parks and Recreation

- Parks
 - Staff are working with Tony Boone on the skills parks upgrade at the Arkansas Foothills trail system entrance.
 - Added additional signage along the Monarch Spur Trail.
 - Purchased an events trailer and new admin hybrid vehicle.
 - Prepping downtown skate park for scooter competition.
 - Worked with PD to breakdown encampments on our monitored conservation easement land in the foothills.
 - Pedestrian wayfinding beacons are being installed over the next few weeks.
 - Got wifi installed at the Chisolm Clubhouse.
 - Terra Firma is doing some clearance and hazardous branch removal along the river path and at the Toubert Building grounds.
- Had an electrician repair the timeclock for the basketball court lights at Alpine Park.
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- Aquatics
 - Fall/Winter/Spring Hours of Operation:
 - Mon - Thurs: 6am - 1pm & 4-8pm
 - Fri 6am - 8pm
 - Sat 10:30am - 6pm
 - Sun 12-6pm
 - Adjusted Hours at the Aquatic Center
 - Current Hours for Monday - Thursday are: 6am - 1pm & 4 - 8pm
 - beginning Monday 9/9, on Mondays the facility will still open from 6am - 1pm, but there will be no afternoon/evening hours
 - Labor Day Hours 9/2/24
 - 8am - 1pm & 4 - 8pm



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- Fall Closure of the Facility 9/30 - 10/13
 - The Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center will be closed for planned, bi-annual maintenance and cleaning.
 - Pool staff will be required to work 5 hours over the shutdown. Contact Jennifer to arrange your schedule.
 - For the most up to date schedule adjustments, please visit Instagram or Facebook @salidaparksandrec
- Lifeguard Training
 - 9/16 from 6pm-7:30pm
 - CPR/Bloodborne Pathogens
- Family Fun Night
 - 9/19 5pm-8pm
- Adult Hot Soak
 - 9/27 7:30pm-9:30pm
- Water Pilates
 - Starts 9/12 & every Thursday 8-9am
 - This class combines traditional Pilates' moves with natural resistance of water with water-specific exercise equipment to build core strength and aid in proper body alignment.
- Recreation
 - Skateboard Lessons
 - Offering Private and group lessons at Centennial Park Skate Park
 - Private Lessons \$95/2 hrs. M-F 9-11am, 12-2pm, 2-4pm, 4-6pm. Ages 10+. Instructor Derek Scott. Info and registration [HERE](#)
 - Group Lessons \$6/2hrs. W, Th 4:40-6:30 pm. Ages 5+. Instructor Ethan Smith. Info and registration [HERE](#)
 - Youth Tennis Lessons
 - Have finished for the year.
 - Adult Kickball
 - Games started Wednesday 8/14 at Marvin Park Softball Field and end October 3.
 - Youth Football
 - Tackle started August 12 and Flag started August 14
 - Mobile Recess
 - Is done for the summer season!
 - Touch a Truck
 - Touch-a-truck is coming up on September 21st!
 - 10am - 2pm. 10am - 11am is a horn/siren-free hour
 - Please reach out to Tina or Ryan if you are interested in volunteering.
 - Salida Scooter Bash
 - Registration is open. Link to [registration](#).
 - The competition will be for youth ages 17 and under
 - Sunday 9/15 from 10 am-2 pm at the downtown skatepark
 - Youth level 2/3 Kayak Program
 - This activity started on August 23 and will take place at the Salida Play Park.
 - Heart of the Rockies Halloween



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- We are starting our planning process for Heart of the Rockies Halloween today! Reach out if you are interested in participating or have a fun idea for the event!
- Field Trip Fridays
 - Field Trip Fridays will be back this fall.
- Youth Volleyball Camp
 - Youth volleyball camp will be back this fall. More details to come.
- Salida Skateboard Jam
 - Registration opens today! Link to [registration](#)
 - Youth skateboard competition for ages 17 & under
 - Saturday 10/12, 11am athlete check-in, Noon competition starts
 - Centennial Park Skatepark
- Youth Basketball
 - Youth basketball registration should open for the 2025 season starting September 16
- 10k-a-day
 - The 10k-a-day step challenge will be back in November! Look for more details to come.
- New Year's Day 5k
 - This year's race will feature a new course, and a timer. Registration will be \$15 and will open in early October.
- Facilities
 - Hire an Operator in Responsible Charge at the Pool to maintain Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment compliance
 - Facilities Supervisor position accepted and expected to start Oct 2nd
 - Comparing new Toubert Building signs and wayfinding
 - Fixing leaky roof in the SteamPlant Event Center
 - Replacing both swimsuit spinners at the Aquatic Center.
 - Getting pricing on 2025 budget requests.
 - Working on repairs to the Steam Plant and Scout Hut's HVAC systems.
 - Had gates serviced at PW and MUF.
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- Events
 - Event: Farmers Market
 - Date(s): 9/21 (+ every Saturday thru October)
 - Time: 8am - Noon
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 300
 - Event: Salida XC Classic
 - Date(s): 10/5
 - Time: all day
 - Location: South Ark
 - Attendance: 500
 - Event: Salida Art Walk
 - Date(s): 10/11 - 10/13
 - Time: all day



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- Location: F St, Riverside Park, downtown art galleries
- Attendance: 800 in & out across various venues
- Event: Single Speed USA
 - Date(s): 10/11 - 10/13
 - Time: all day
 - Location: S Mountain, Monarch Spur, Methodist Mt
 - Attendance: 250
- Event: Riverside Ramble
 - Date(s): 10/12
 - Time: 8am - 2pm
 - Location: Start/Finish at SteamPlant sculpture yard, race on Sackett/city streets (after party at the Office Bar)
 - Attendance: 100

Police

No Report

Public Works

- Planning/Engineering/Construction
 - Planning and Construction
 - Streets
 - Oak Street – Utility and storm sewer construction for Phase 1 complete. Curb and sidewalks underway.
 - Continual coordination with contractors PIO and City PIO on detour needs and impacts.
 - SRTS CDOT Local Agency Project - Final engineering and CDOT clearances underway.
 - West SH-291 Improvements –Mesa Ln design underway based on Council work session feedback.
 - South Ark Neighborhood – Design contract executed, and kickoff meeting planned.
 - Working with Finance Department and financial consultant on Utility Rate Study updates and Budget
 - Attended Rocky Mountain Water and Environment Conference. Review of regs and continuing education
 - Utilities
 - Current priorities include annual sewer line cleaning and CCTV inspection for condition assessment.
 - SCADA overhaul and upgrades underway. WTP equipment upgrades to assist with automation.
 - Smart Meter upgrades underway
 - Other CIP Items:
 - Pasquale – generator installation completed. Completion of programming remains.



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- Concrete Maintenance Project – project awarded. Work includes point repairs and sidewalk improvements
- Operations
 - Streets
 - Annual tree pruning project underway.
 - Asphalt crack sealing project planning underway.
 - Storm drainage and culvert cleaning.



Oak Street Curb and Sidewalk Fronting Fire Station