



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Administration	Christy Doon - City Administrator	July 16, 2024

Administration and Human Resources

- The Sustainability Committee underwent its first Strategic Planning meeting for the year 2025-2026. Through this meeting, they have identified the work that they would like to see accomplished in an Annual Priority Plan for the 2025 fiscal year and are compiling research for the Strategic Plan which will be a three year, living document.
- The State Legislature recently (July 1, 2024) enacted [SB 24-131, Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Places](#). Such places include the building of a local government governing body, including those in which the offices of elected members of the chief executive officer are located or those used for court proceedings. Signs have been posted at entrances in the Toubert Building as well as in cases on the exterior of the building.
- Supervisors across all departments completed a 6-part training series through the International City/County Managers Association entitled Effective Supervisory Practices, Better Results through Teamwork.
- Attended the Bi-Monthly Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors meeting. Jake Rishavy, the Executive Director, and I have set up monthly calls to discuss any upcoming policy issues.
- We have processed 54 hires or rehires YTD.
- We have processed 50 terminations YTD.
- The ADP Comprehensive Services upgrade is going well. Enhanced benefit and talent management modules are under construction.

Arts and Culture

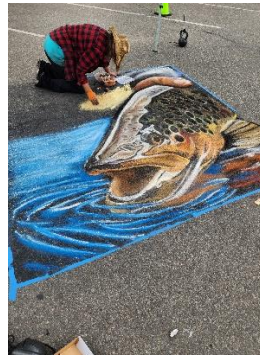
- Summer Creativity Camps serve 250 kids. We are wrapping up our summer camps! 50 kids a week spent one on one time learning from local artists sharing their expertise. Salida kids had lessons in painting with Lynn Van de Water; mosaics with Anne Walker; street art techniques with Brink Messick; illustration with Nate Calderone; baking with Gabby Emslie; and upcycled clothing fashion design with Krista Jarvis, and Jane LeVene and Fiber Fest friends. The Creative District Summer Creativity Camps served 50 students a week over 5 weeks.
- First Fridays - Downtown businesses hold First Fridays every month. Participation from creative industries and attendees has continued to increase as galleries and businesses provide artist demos, refreshments, and a chance to talk with the artist. First Fridays bring approximately 200 locals and visitors to the downtown district.
- The Inaugural Salida Chalk Festival brings over 600 visitors downtown. 30 regional and local artists plus 30 participants from the public created chalk murals along E Sackett. Over 600 visitors were treated to chalk murals and live music. Many of the artists have asked to participate next year. It was a successful arts event for the community.
- Public Art Commission Retreat. The Public Art Commission held a retreat on June 6. The retreat focused on operations, visioning and goal setting, and a review of the Public Art Policy.
- An exhibit was hung in the Paquette Gallery featuring the works from artist, Jan Kraus. The artist was recognized at the reception held during the monthly Creative Mixer, which was attended by (30) people. Additionally, local musician TJ Hittle entertained the attendees.
- Arts & Culture kicked off the annual Summer Concert Series in late-June with performances by regional band Starburn and local favorite Blue Recluse. The first two events of the 10-date schedule drew an audience of (900).
- The Salida Community Read program, a partnership program between Arts & Culture and Salida Public Library, concluded its half-year worth of monthly programs with both a Writers Workshop and Author Talk by Robert Justice, author of this year's book selection "They Can't Take Your Name."



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- Two free film screenings of the locally produced We Are Chaffee documentary “A Home in Paradise” as encore presentations to its premiere at the Salida Film Festival in May. These two screenings were attended by a total of (120) people.
- The performance highlights of the month came from performances of the accomplished musicians from the Walden Chamber Music Society as well as a two-weekend run of Sventastik Productions’ “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat featuring a 35-member cast of adults, teens and school-age individuals. The two performances were attended by a total of (500) people.
- The SteamPlant and Scout Hut played host venues to many municipal, county, educational, business and non-profit groups, including City of Salida, Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation, Rep. Brittney Peterson, Colorado Rural Education Collaborative, Headwaters Institute, Upper Arkansas River Basin and the Special District Association. All total the LISTED events/meetings were attended throughout the month by (388).
- The Public Art Commission convened to receive updates on two projects – one commissioned, one artist-initiated – as well as discussing and revising process and evaluations for future projects.
- TOTAL GUESTS Attending (60) Events/Meetings for June = 4,172
 - Number of free arts and culture events/no admission = 8
 - Number of attendees at free events = 1,782
 - Number of events paying rental fees = 31
 - Number of entities using the facilities = 25





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City Clerk

- Processed 12 CORA requests. We have processed 44 CORA requests so far in 2024.
- The Victoria Tavern, LLC received their new Tavern City and State Liquor License.
- La Terraza Restaurant and Bar received their new Hotel and Restaurant City and State Liquor License.
- Processed several Liquor License renewals.
- We have been working on updating the Council Action Forms, Ordinances and Resolutions to have more consistency with all Departments.
- The July Municipal Court has 50 cases.
- The Clerk's Office processed 220 Short-term rental license renewals.
- On July 9th we held a mobile shred day and destroyed a total of 80 boxes of records.
- Processed several amplified sound permits for a total of 108 permits issued this year.
- I will be out of the office the week of July 15th to attend the Colorado Municipal Clerks Institute.

Community Development

- Building Permits: Following a brisk start to 2024, building permits have slowed considerably. Thus far through 7/10/24, we have seen 69 total building permits, including 114 new residential units (2 mixed-use building permits alone accounted for 75 units within Salida Crossings). At this time in 2023, we had seen 145 total building permits, inc. 76 new residential units. In 2022, we had seen 102 total building permits, inc. 43 new residential units. In 2021, we had seen 127 total building permits, inc. 115 new residential units.
- South Ark Neighborhood Phase I Infrastructure: An RFP for design and engineering of the primary infrastructure was issued and interviews were recently conducted. Public Works will be bringing a proposed award to Council with the hope of having a firm on board in the coming weeks. Agreements with the County and CMC re: their contributions towards the infrastructure project still need to be finalized.
- 1st and D Apartments Project: An RFP for final design, cost estimating, and construction has been issued on this project, now that Council has provided Artspace and the architects with direction to move forward with the existing footprint of the building and the more "historical" external design. It is still possible that some slight modifications to the internal layout could result in additional flexible creative space without sacrificing the other residential elements (lobby space, management office, storage units, etc.) that Council saw value in at the last meeting or



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adding cost to the project. These options will be explored further as architectural designs are being finalized and cost estimates are made, prior to administrative review of the project.

- Land Use Applications: We continue to receive (or handle inquiries about) a variety of land use applications (annexations, zonings, subdivisions, etc.) which have been keeping staff and Planning Commission busy as of late and which will be heading to Council in the coming weeks/months. We also have some amendments to the Inclusionary Housing code currently in the process. New staff are beginning to take on some of these applications, which will eventually open up time to focus on the land use code rewrite once again.

Finance

- Staff are hard at work planning for 2025 and drafting their budgets.
- Working through the process for financing the Hwy 50 building purchase.
- Staff are keeping up with the daily work while short one staff member (out of 4 total)

Finance Office - Key Operating Metrics - 2024						
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Number of front desk customers served	264	212	167	212	214	154
Number of invoices paid	364	328	338	443	290	352
Number of utility bills processed	4,261	4,263	4,268	4,270	4,292	4,298
Number of online utility payments received	2,704	2,725	2,778	2,746	2,769	2,805
Number of delinquent utility accounts processed	325	383	397	294	371	374
Number of journal entries prepared	90	75	87	59	59	47
Number of payroll checks processed	456	341	321	478	314	317
Number of utility service orders processed	183	94	95	85	78	48
Number of new construction utility accounts set up	22	21	10	7	5	5
Number of Accounts Receivable billings	39	36	50	54	51	43

Fire

- River Rescues – This year, the Salida Fire Department has conducted several river rescue operations, particularly challenging due to higher-than-normal river flow rates. We are pleased to report that all rescues were successful, with only minor cuts and bruises sustained.



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- Fire - The department responded to a fire at Captain Zipline, located in a wildfire interface area. Thanks to the swift and professional response of our crews, the fire was quickly contained with minimal property damage. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable team serving our community.





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- Fatal Car Accident: Crews recently responded to a fatal car accident on Highway 291. Tragically, the accident resulted in the loss of one life. Firefighters used extrication tools, including the "jaws of life," to remove the victims from the vehicle. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the deceased during this difficult time.
- New Firehouse: The construction of the new firehouse is progressing well. The exterior work is nearing completion, with most of the interior framing done. Plumbing and electrical systems are currently being installed, and soon most of the work will shift to the interior. Future work on the tower is also planned. Please be aware of construction detours on Oak Street. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.





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- **Live Burn Training:** All shifts recently participated in live fire training using a structure donated by DSI Inc. This invaluable training opportunity allowed firefighters to experience real-world conditions, including intense heat and poor visibility caused by smoke. Crews also practiced vertical ventilation, a crucial skill for removing heat and smoke through the roof during a fire. This hands-on experience is essential for preparing our firefighters to effectively respond to emergencies.



- **Hooligan Race:** The Hooligan Race came down to the wire this year. Chief Jonke's decision to wait until the last day to make a call on the race proved wise, as water levels dropped just in time to allow for a safe event. This contributed significantly to the success of FIBArk, ensuring a thrilling and enjoyable experience for all participants and spectators.



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- **Fireworks:** Every member of the Salida Fire Department gave up their holiday to ensure our community enjoyed a spectacular fireworks show. Our firefighters spent a long 18 hours away from their families to provide a safe and memorable celebration of our nation's birth. Their dedication not only ensures a fantastic display but also attracts visitors from across the state to join in the festivities. We deeply appreciate their hard work and commitment.



- **Wildfire:** Firefighters from the South Arkansas Fire Protection District are currently deployed to six different states to combat wildfires. This significant effort underscores our commitment to protecting our forests and natural resources. Their hard work and dedication are vital in preserving these critical environments, and we are proud of their contributions to this important mission. The SAFPD is our partner in the community and is critical to our wildfire suppression and mitigation efforts.



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Parks and Recreation

- Aquatics
 - Two more sessions of summer swim lessons left
 - Interviewing for Lifeguard III position - Three candidates
 - Changed our credit card system from Card Connect to Paysafe. All our credit card transactions can now be seen in Amilia.
 - The pool has been busy - we had to start a waitlist a few times
 - Fall/Winter hours of operation begin 8/5
 - Monday-Thursday: 6am-1pm and 4-8pm
 - Friday: 6am-8pm
 - Saturday: 10:30am-6:00pm
 - Sunday: 12:00pm-6:00pm
- Recreation
 - Youth Tennis Lessons
 - Available through the end of August
 - 120 participants so far
 - Youth Pickleball Lessons
 - Available for the month of July
 - 20 participants so far
 - Youth Skateboard Lessons
 - Available until October 20
 - 98 participants so far
 - Youth Tennis Camp
 - We are offering a 3-day youth tennis camp July 23 - July 25.
 - 6 out of 8 spots filled.
 - Youth Wrestling Clinic



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- July 15th - July 18th.
 - 22 spots filled so far
- Adult Kickball
 - Team registration is open for Adult Coed Kickball and closes August 2.
 - 3 teams have signed up so far, expecting about 8.
- Youth Football
 - Youth football registration is open.
 - 16 kids have signed up and registration hasn't been open very long.
- Rafting and River Safety
 - Both courses filled all 12 spots.
- Youth Baseball
 - Youth Baseball finishes this week!!
 - we had 194 kids participate this season
- Youth Softball
 - Youth Softball Finishes next week.
 - we had 61 participants this year.
- Adult Softball
 - Adult softball finishes at the end of July.
 - 182 participants this year
- Mobile Recess
 - Mobile Recess will run from 10 am - 1 pm every Wednesday through the end of August.
 - averaging about 60 participants/week
- Events
 - Mobile Recess
 - Date(s): 7/17 (+ every Wednesday thru August)
 - Time: 10am - 1pm
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 50-100
 - Summer Concert Series
 - Date(s): 7/18
 - Time: 4-9pm
 - Location: Riverside Park
 - Attendance: 300
 - Heart of the Rockies Rampage Skateboard Competition
 - Date(s): 7/19 & 7/20
 - Time: 8:30am - 6pm
 - Location: Centennial Park Skatepark
 - Attendance: 300
 - Salida Arts Festival
 - Date(s): 7/20 & 7/21
 - Time: 7/20 10am – 6pm, 7/21 10am - 4pm



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- Location: Riverside Park
- Attendance: 200
- Farmers Market
 - Date(s): 7/20 (+ every Saturday thru October)
 - Time: 8am - Noon
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Mobile Recess
 - Date(s): 7/24 (+ every Wednesday thru August)
 - Time: 10am - 1pm
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 50-100
- Summer Concert Series
 - Date(s): 7/25
 - Time: 4-9pm
 - Location: Riverside Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Dog Agility Competition
 - Date(s): 7/27 & 7/28
 - Time: all day
 - Location: Marvin Park
 - Attendance: 50
- National High School Trail Championship/Beas Knees
 - Date(s): 7/27
 - Time: all day
 - Location: Riverside Park & SMT trails system
 - Attendance: 250
- Farmers Market
 - Date(s): 7/27 (+ every Saturday thru October)
 - Time: 8am - Noon
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Mobile Recess
 - Date(s): 7/31 (+ every Wednesday thru August)
 - Time: 10am - 1pm
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 50-100



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- Summer Concert Series
 - Date(s): 8/1
 - Time: 4-9pm
 - Location: Riverside Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Farmers Market
 - Date(s): 8/3 (+ every Saturday thru October)
 - Time: 8am - Noon
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Mobile Recess
 - Date(s): 8/7 (+ every Wednesday thru August)
 - Time: 10am - 1pm
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 50-100
- JazzFest
 - Date(s): 8/10 (+ every Wednesday thru August)
 - Time: all day
 - Location: Riverside Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Farmers Market
 - Date(s): 8/10 (+ every Saturday thru October)
 - Time: 8am - Noon
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Praise in the Park
 - Date(s): 8/11
 - Time: 7am - 3pm
 - Location: Riverside Park
 - Attendance: 200-300
- Mobile Recess
 - Date(s): 8/14 (+ every Wednesday thru August)
 - Time: 10am - 1pm
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 50-100



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- Summer Concert Series
 - Date(s): 8/15
 - Time: 4-9pm
 - Location: Riverside Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Farmers Market
 - Date(s): 8/17 (+ every Saturday thru October)
 - Time: 8am - Noon
 - Location: Alpine Park
 - Attendance: 300
- Parks
 - Upper Poncha Blvd landscaping complete- 16 trees and 150 shrubs, bushes and grasses
 - Lower Poncha Blvd landscaping almost done- 6 trees, cobble rock, sunset rock, and ascent boulders
 - Mid-summer landscaping clean-up - monarch spur trail, monarch spur park, Marvin river trail
 - Rough mower work- monarch spur trail, dog park, south ark
 - Steam plant landscaping improvements
 - Skatepark maintenance
 - Applications coming in for vacant full-time employee
 - New mowing trailer built out
 - Colorado Trails conference September 25th and 26th at the Steam Plant- Hosted by City parks and trails department and the forest service
 - Trails and conservation masterplan update- Greater Salida area is a top priority yay!

Police

- We had 959 calls for service in June. Calls during FIBArk were actually down this year which was nice to see.
- We conducted an active shooter drill at the Salida High School. This drill was conducted to test our response capabilities and coordinate response with other agencies. Agencies that included were Salida PD, Buena Vista PD, Chaffee SO, Colorado State Patrol, Colorado State Parks, AHRA, Salida Fire, and Chaffee County EMS. It was a successful training, and everyone learned a lot. We hope to never have to utilize this training in a real scenario.
- Officer Knight has nearly completed his Field Training process and should be out on the street as a patrol officer by the end of July.

Public Works

- Planning/Engineering/Construction
 - Planning and Construction
 - Streets
 - Oak Street – Construction of utility service replacements have been initiated.
 - Additional Public Information to be sent out in near future by project PIO.
 - Full closure anticipated late July
 - SRTS CDOT Local Agency Project - Final engineering and CDOT clearances underway.
 - West SH-291 Improvements – Preliminary engineering underway.



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- South Ark Neighborhood – Staff interviewed engineering consultants for Council recommendation.
- Working with Finance Department and financial consultant on Utility Rate Study updates
- Utilities
 - SCADA overhaul and upgrades underway
 - Smart Meter upgrades underway
- Other CIP Items:
 - Pasquale – generator installation completed. Completion of programming remains.
 - Asphalt Maintenance Project completed at Routt, Adams, Eaton Street, and Old Stage Road. Completion of punch list remains.
 - Concrete Maintenance Project – staff surveyed defective sections and project is in the planning phase
- Operations
 - Streets
 - Staff helped with asphalt bump grinding at various locations around town.
 - Staff completed construction of an accessible drop off zone adjacent to Longfellow Elementary.
 - Staff has helped with numerous event street closure and construction coordination

