

Impact your community – become a victim advocate volunteer

Training academy starts in March

Looking for an impactful way to volunteer in the community? Join the police department's Victim Services Unit (VSU) and provide support to those who have been a victim of a violent crime or traumatic situation. Volunteer advocates provide on-scene crisis intervention with victims and witnesses of crime, sudden death and other emergency situations. This includes assistance, support and providing resources such as gift cards, diapers, shelter and information on victims' rights in the legal system.

"In 2015, our unit served more than 3,800 victims and responded to 969 crime scenes," said Victim Service Coordinator Kim Messina. "Our goal as victim advocates is to make sure each victim is treated with respect and dignity so they can begin to restore their hope for healing and recovery."

When volunteer victim advocates meet with victims of violent crimes they:

- Provide emotional support and crisis intervention
- Help victims understand their rights and options
- Inform victims of their rights

Applications to become a volunteer victim advocate are currently being accepted for the spring 2016 Victim Advocate Training Academy. If selected, volunteers must complete a 40-hour training beginning March of 2016.

Volunteers must be 21 years of age, attend the 40-hour spring training, and be able to take four, 12-hour, on-call shifts per month.

To become a volunteer, applications can be found online at brightonco.gov/348/Become-a-Volunteer. For more information about volunteer opportunities in the VSU, contact Kim Messina at 303-655-2308 or kmessina@c3gov.com.



In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the youth commission volunteered their time and hands at Bridges of Silence, a local nonprofit that empowers youth to become graduates, leaders in the community, entrepreneurs, and self-confident learners. Members took down the aquaponics system in the green house, assembled racks, and broke down boxes for recycling.

Nominate grand marshals for Commerce City Memorial Day Parade

It is a great tribute to honor the city's and state's former and current military personnel and the contributions they have made. As part of the city's 52nd annual Memorial Day parade, the city is soliciting grand marshal nominations for the parade celebration, on Monday, May 30, 2016.

This year's event begins at 10 a.m. in the heart of Commerce City. Billed as the largest parade in the state and one of the largest in the country, more than 10,000 people traditionally attend, with 100+ parade entries that stretch approximately 4 miles.

The person(s) selected for the grand marshal must be a (current/former) Commerce City resident, served in the active military and able to participate in the parade. Nomination forms can be completed online or downloaded at www.c3gov.com/parade.

Submit nomination forms by Feb. 26, 2016 to:

City of Commerce City
c/o Michelle Halstead
7887 E. 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

For more information, call 303-289-3719 or mhalstead@c3gov.com.



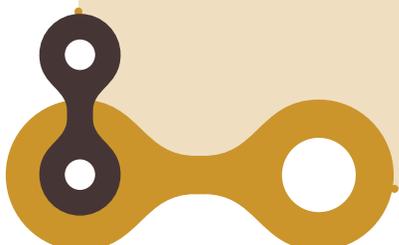
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7887 E. 60th Ave.
Commerce City, CO 80022

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NEWS BRIEFS

Passports are your key to exploring the world

Tropical coasts. Historic landmarks. Exotic foods. Epic nightlife. International business. Whatever your reason for traveling abroad, you're going to need a passport to get there.

In 2015, the city clerk's office processed 955 passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. It is the only location in the city that accepts passport applications.

New passport applications are accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the civic center (7887 E. 60th Ave.), Monday through Friday. Obtain an application from the city clerk's office or bring a completed application with you. Learn more about the process, requirements and fees online at c3gov.com/passports. Visit travel.state.gov for more information on travel and required documentation.

Public art selection for Pioneer Park

As part of the city's public art program, Pioneer Park will soon be receiving its very own art installation.

Last month, three semi-finalists were selected to compete for the final selection. A total of 31 Colorado artists submitted examples of existing art work for the city's art selection committee to review. Out of those, the committee gave the highest ranking scores to: Michael Clapper of Denver, John King of Lyons and Chris Weed of Colorado Springs.

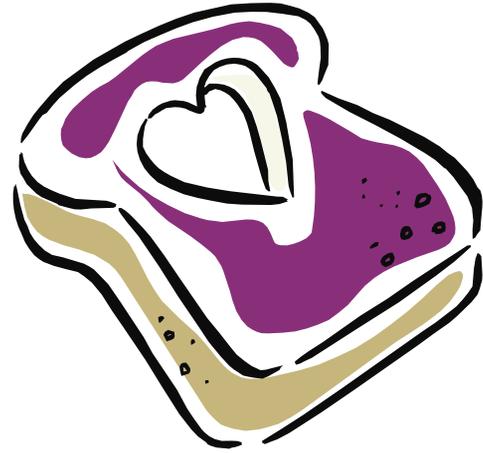
The commission considered the following criteria for the art: a single sculpture or a series of sculptures for the site; interactive and/or kinetic; encourages people to approach and engage with the art; do justice to the length of the site; be attractive to viewers on E. 60th Avenue; and to inspire viewers to think about the space in a unique way. The artists displayed a range of artwork that was lively, colorful, whimsical, kinetic or elegant, and enduring, in sustainable materials.

Next, the three semi-finalists will present individual proposals to the committee during a Feb. 23 meeting. The committee will then forward a recommendation to the cultural council for review and approval before they pass it along to city council for final approval in March.

The total art commission is \$74,500 for this project and was allotted through the public art funding program which designates a portion from capital improvement and voter-approved 2K funded projects to art. A percentage of the recent Paradise Island project is funding this piece.

Become involved in the public art selection process by joining the city's public art selection committee, supported by cultural council. Visit www.c3gov.com/boards for more information.

Spread the Love



Donate a jar of peanut butter or jelly and help the Adams County Emergency Food Bank in Commerce City

January 18 – February 14

Drop-off bin locations:

Commerce City Recreation Center lobby, 6060 E. Parkway Dr.
Older/Adult Senior Center lobby, 6060 E. Parkway Dr.
Commerce City Civic Center lobby, 7887 E. 60th Ave.



For more information call
303.289.3720

Join City Council for regular telephone town hall meetings

Learn more about what's happening in the city, ask questions and provide input on important projects.

City Council will host a series of telephone town hall meetings this year to provide residents an easy way to engage in city government from the comfort of their home. Beginning in February, council will host an hour-long call the third Wednesday of every other month to share city information, get feedback on projects such as the new recreation center, and answer questions about services or issues.

Telephone town halls are a new way council members are reaching out to residents. Last year, more than 1,200 individuals participated in two meetings, providing feedback that helped shape programming plans for the recreation centers.

The first meeting is 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016. Learn more about these meetings at c3gov.com/council and register to join the call.

Reach out to Michelle Halstead (mhalstead@c3gov.com) with questions.

STAY IN-THE-KNOW

City Council adopts laws, ordinances, resolutions and rules consistent with the city charter. Some of the upcoming topics include:

- Public hearings regarding land use on E. 48th Avenue and Forest Street and property on E. 84th Avenue and Ulster Street
- Adoption of the master development agreement for the Mile High Greyhound Park
- Capital program update
- Update on Final I-70 East Environmental Impact Statement update

Agendas are frequently updated and subject to change so make sure you check online for the most recent council agenda at c3gov.com/council. Council meetings, both regular meetings (first and third Monday nights) and study sessions (second and fourth Monday nights) are open to the public, although public comment is only taken during regular meetings.

COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



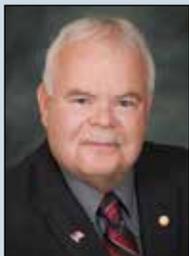
Mayor Sean Ford
Cell: 303-720-9106
sford@c3gov.com
Term expires 2019



Mayor Pro Tem René Bullock
Cell: 303-880-6559
rbullock@c3gov.com
Term expires 2017



Ward I Andrew Amador
Cell: 303-910-4409
aamador@c3gov.com
Term expires 2017



Ward II Rick Teter
Cell: 303-378-2299
rteter@c3gov.com
Term expires 2019



Ward III Jadie Carson
Cell: 303-810-7276
jcarson@c3gov.com
Term expires 2017



Ward IV Paolo Diaz
Cell: 303-668-0542
pdiaz@c3gov.com
Term expires 2019



Council at Large Crystal Elliott
Cell: 303-406-3893
celliott@c3gov.com
Term expires 2019



Council at Large Steve Douglas
Cell: 720-205-2621
sdouglas@c3gov.com
Term expires 2019



Council at Large Jason McEldowney
Cell: 303-808-9105
jmceldowney@c3gov.com
Term expires 2017

Come by the Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., or watch us live on Comcast Channel 8 or www.c3gov.com on the first and third Monday night.

COUNCIL CORNER



Paolo Diaz
Ward IV

It is a privilege to have been elected as the newest councilmember in Commerce City. I have been married to my educator/entrepreneur wife Mindy for 12 years and have lived in the city for ten of those years. Our children, Maile and Elijah, attend Second Creek Elementary. We love the people in this community – seeing the friendly faces inside the bank, hearing about our dentist’s most recent outdoor adventure, connecting with the orthodontists who happen to be at every community event, interacting with parents while coaching our kids’ soccer and basketball teams, and the conversing on community Facebook pages. I can’t help but appreciate the passion that I see from residents wherever I go.

For my day job, I work for an organization which partners with individuals and the business community to educate students about financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness.

I engage the community in getting involved in our schools. Practicing what I preach, I have also gotten involved in various groups, including the Commerce City Cultural Council, the Commerce City Youth Commission, and the Adams 14 Education Foundation. I have enjoyed being engaged with the Brighton Chamber of Commerce and the Metro North Chamber of Commerce and serving as part of the leadership program and the ambassador group for the latter. I love advocating for business and watching small businesses grow.

Commerce City has changed a lot in my ten years here and more exciting changes are ahead - the widening of Highway 2 and Tower Road, the on-ramp from Tower Road to westbound Pena Boulevard, and the new recreation center will be complete in two years. As a resident whose commute to work is either Highway 2 to downtown or Tower Road to Aurora, I can’t imagine anyone happier than me. I am eager to see what the airport development means to our area. The best is yet to come and I look forward to serving these next four years and helping us get to that next level.

CALENDAR

- Jan. 19-Feb. 14 – Spread the Love food drive, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. or 6060 E. Parkway Dr., regular business hours. Donations of peanut butter and/or jelly to benefit the Adams County Emergency Food Bank
- Feb. 1 City Council Regular Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-9:30 p.m.
- Feb. 1 City Council NIGID Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 9:35-9:55 p.m.
- Feb. 1 City Council Urban Renewal Authority Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 10-10:10 p.m.
- Feb. 2 Police Neighborhood Meeting, Alsup Elementary, 7101 Birch St., 6-7 p.m.
- Feb. 2 Planning Commission, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-9 p.m.
- Feb. 4 Youth Commission, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6:30-8 p.m.
- Feb. 5 Daddy Daughter Dance, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 6-9 p.m.
- Feb. 8 City Council Study Session, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.
- Feb. 9 Board of Adjustment, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9 Police Neighborhood Meeting, Boys & Girls Club, 6201 Holly St., 6-7 p.m.
- Feb. 10 CIP CAC/PRG Joint Special Session, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 Night of the Stars Local Talent Show Rehearsal, Brighton Cultural Center, 300 Strong St., Brighton, CO, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 11 Groundbreaking of park in Villages at Buffalo Run East, 11698 Chambers Rd., 2 p.m.
- Feb. 12 Night of the Stars Local Talent Show, Brighton Cultural Center, 300 Strong St., Brighton, CO, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 13 Middle School Madness, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 7-10 p.m.
- Feb. 16 Swim Lesson Registration, online only, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., c3gov.com/registration
- Feb. 16 Derby Review Board, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 5:30-8 p.m.
- Feb. 16 Quality Community Foundation, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 17 Swim Lesson Registration, walk in and phone, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 303-289-3789
- Feb. 17 Telephone town hall, c3gov.com/council, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 18 Youth Commission, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6:30-8 p.m.
- Feb. 19 Cops vs. Kids – Floor Hockey, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 4 p.m.
- Feb. 22 City Council Study Session, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.
- Feb. 22 Summer Camp Registration, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 5:30 a.m.
- Feb. 23 Police Neighborhood Meeting, Adams City High School, 7200 Quebec Parkway, 6-7 p.m.
- Feb. 25 Police Neighborhood Meeting, Stuart Middle School, 15955 E. 101st Way, 6-7 p.m.
- Mar. 1 Planning Commission, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-9 p.m.
- Mar. 1 Police Neighborhood Meeting, Alsup Elementary, 7101 Birch St., 6-7 p.m.
- Mar. 1 Summer Camp Packet Assistance, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 6-7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 3 Youth Commission, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6:30-8 p.m.
- Mar. 4 Quality Community Foundation grant applications due (application is available online at www.c3gov.com/qcf)
- Mar. 7 City Council Regular Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.

Community celebrates park groundbreaking events

On Jan. 28, Commerce City marked the beginning of construction of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” inspired Turnberry Park with Turnberry Elementary School students and community members.

Join us on Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new 9-acre park in Villages at Buffalo Run East. Located at 11698 Chambers Road, the park will have the community-selected Rocky Mountains theme and will include a multi-use hard court, playfield, picnic area, playground, walking/jogging trail, sustainable landscaping, safety lighting and restroom.

Both parks are expected to open this summer (weather permitting). These are the final two neighborhood parks in the five-year capital improvement program. The first neighborhood park in the program, Fronterra Park, opened in August 2015. Visit c3gov.com/QCL for more information on capital projects.



Conceptual designs of park plazas and playground.

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Commerce City is one of the fastest growing cities in Colorado

Here are some of the new projects that are either under construction or near completion during the month of December:

- Fiore Equities office/shop building at E. 91st Avenue and Monaco Street
- Lifestyles Foods marijuana food processing at E. 49th Avenue and Newport Street
- Starbuds marijuana kitchen on Dallas Street north of E. 96th Avenue
- Caliber Collision auto body on Colorado Boulevard south of E. 68th Avenue
- Make Tortilla tortilla factory at E. 75th Avenue and Hwy 2
- UPS distribution center at E. 50th Avenue and Ivy Street

The city’s monthly development report can be found online at www.c3gov.com/devreport. By selecting “Get City Alerts” on the website, you can sign up to receive the report directly to your inbox.

Choose your adventure with summer day camps

Registration opens Feb. 22

Summer camp is around the corner! Kids ages 6-10 enjoy full-day camps with activities ranging from astronomy to zoo exploration. Keep teens ages 11-15 active in full-day camps Mondays-Thursdays with paddle boarding, whitewater rafting, horseback riding and more! They will enjoy swimming and field trips each week in a safe and friendly environment. State-licensed and CCAP-approved.

Interested parents should attend an informational meeting on March 1 to walk through the enrollment process and receive a schedule of field trips and weekly themes. This meeting is not mandatory, but is helpful in navigating the lengthy, state-required enrollment form. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at the recreation center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., with staff on hand to answer questions and help parents complete the paper enrollment form.

Enrollment packets can be downloaded for free online at c3gov.com/camp starting Monday, Feb. 22, or are available as hard copy that day at the recreation center for a \$10 fee.

Bring the following information and documentation to the March 1 parent meeting and have a staff member walk you through the enrollment process:

- A printout of the enrollment packet
- Child's photo
- Colorado immunization records signed by a doctor
- Health history signed by a doctor
- Completed emergency card
- Addresses and phone numbers for family doctor, dentist and preferred hospital

Deadline for summer camp enrollment and a mandatory parent meeting is May 10. For more information about summer camp, visit c3gov.com/camp or contact Ben Vallee at 303-289-3659 or bvallee@c3gov.com.

Go for the goal this spring

Register by March 13 for girls' and boys' soccer programs. All leagues are co-ed and open to kindergartners through fifth grade. Go online to www.c3gov.com/sports or call 303-289-3789 to register.



Pardon our dust

Men's shower facilities closed for maintenance Feb. 18-21 at recreation center

The men's shower facilities at the Commerce City Recreation Center will be closed February 18-21 for resurfacing. The men's locker room will remain open; however, shower facilities, the steam room, and swimming pool are not available to men during this time.

During the maintenance, Commerce City Recreation Center patrons are welcome to visit the Brighton Recreation Center, which features a weight room, swimming pool, hot tub, cardiovascular equipment and gymnasium. Just present your recreation center ID at the front desk and gain access to the facility for free during the construction.

Brighton Recreation Center
555 North 11th Ave., Brighton
Tel: 303-655-2200

Contact Matt Miller, facilities recreation coordinator, with questions at 303-289-3735.



PARKS & REC HAPPENINGS

Commerce City Recreation Center

6060 E. Parkway Dr.
303-289-3760
c3gov.com/recreation

Buffalo Run Golf Course

15700 E. 112th Ave.
303-289-1500
buffalorungolfcourse.com



Commerce City is hiring!

- Activities leaders for teen field trips
- Batting cage attendants at Pioneer Park
- Lifeguards, concessions and guest relations at Paradise Island
- Golf course greens keepers and attendants at Buffalo Run
- Restaurant servers, cooks and dishwashers at Bison Grill
- Seasonal workers at city parks
- Summer camp staff for youth and teen day camps

Work in a fun environment and gain experience in parks, recreation and golf. Seasonal employee perks include discounts at the Commerce City Recreation Center and Buffalo Run Golf Course.

View all open positions and apply online at c3gov.com/jobs.



Cops vs Kids

Get to know your local police officers every third Friday of the month by taking them on in a friendly sports game. Join us this month for floor hockey at the Commerce City Recreation Center. Check-in at 4 p.m.

Fri 2/19 Floor Hockey Commerce City Recreation Center FREE



Middle School Madness

Come dressed to impress for the annual Valentine's Day dance on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 7-10 p.m.

Grades 6-8. \$2/per person

Commerce City Recreation Center

Be informed. Be involved. Be safe.

Police department increases community engagement through regular meetings

Are you concerned about speeding in your neighborhood? Barking dogs? Let us know! The Commerce City Police Department is hosting community meetings around the city to discuss:

- Neighborhood crime
- Quality of life issues
- Recent crimes in the area
- How community members can work together with the police department to reduce incidents
- Available resources to help address traumatic situation

“These community meetings help build a bridge that allows residents and law enforcement to communicate, collaborate and work together to build a safer community,” said Deputy Chief Lowell Richardson. “In our last meeting, a resident provided information about suspicious activity in her neighborhood, which led to catching the criminal. If we work together, our officers can help work towards reducing crime and the fear of crime.”

Last year, the police department split the city into three zones with a designated commander and crime prevention officer (CPO) to build stronger and more effective relationships within the community. Each zone is conducting monthly meetings as follows:

Zone A: Commander Clint Nichols and CPO Anna Bungartz

- First Tuesday of each month at Alsup Elementary, 7101 Birch St., 6-7 p.m.

Zone B: Commander Charlie Schoepflin and CPO DJ Thompson

- Second Tuesday of each month at the Boys and Girls Club, 6201 Holly St., 6-7 p.m.
- Fourth Tuesday of each month at Adams City High School, 7200 Quebec Parkway, 6-7 p.m.

Zone C: Commander Mark Morgan and CPO Elizabeth Couture

- Third Thursday of each month at Stuart Middle School, 15955 E 101st Way, 6-7 p.m.

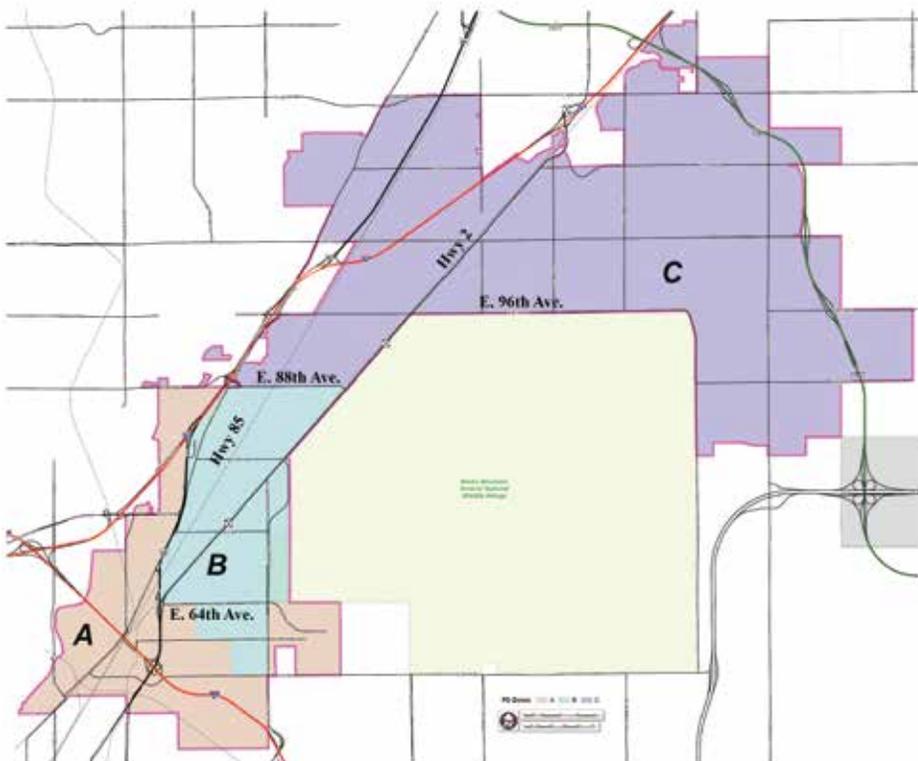
**Meetings times and locations are subject to change, visit the website for the most updated information or like the city's Facebook page for timely update.*

For more information about the community meetings contact Officer DJ Thompson at 303-727-3996 or dthompson@c3gov.com. For more information about the police department visit c3gov.com/police.

Upcoming meetings:

- Zone A: Feb. 2, Alsup Elementary, 7101 Birch St., 6-7 p.m.
- Zone B: Feb. 9, Boys & Girls Club, 6201 Holly St., 6-7 p.m.
Feb. 23, Adams City High School, 7200 Quebec Pkwy, 6-7 p.m.
- Zone C: Feb. 25, Stuart Middle School, 15955 E 101st Way, 6-7 p.m.

Find your zone on the map below



We continually look for ways to improve communication with the community and enjoy hearing what you would like to see. Contact Commerce City Connected Editor Julia Emko at jemko@c3gov.com or 303-289-3782 with questions or comments.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Access Housing Inc.	303-289-7078
Adams County Food Distribution Center.....	303-286-4193
Adams County Head Start	303-286-4141
Adams County Housing Authority	303-227-2075
Adams County School District 14	303-853-3333
Adams County Sheriff's Office	303-654-1850
Adams County Social Services	303-287-8831
Adams County Workforce	303-453-8627
Alternatives to Family Violence	303-657-0492
Center for People with Disabilities	303-422-8662
Children's Outreach Project	303-429-0653
Colorado Access Advantage	720-744-5101
Commerce City Health Services	303-289-1086
Commerce City Library	303-287-0063
Community Enterprise	303-288-4783
Denver Rescue Mission	303-294-0157
Department of Motor Vehicles	303-654-6010
Derby Resource Center.....	303-289-1735
Families First	303-745-0327
Family Tree	303-227-2205
Housing Authority	303-289-3698
Migrant Education Program	303-288-4641
New America School	303-523-9634
North Metro Community	303-255-6595
Partnerships for Healthy Comm	303-422-2483
Platte Valley Medical Center	303-659-6404
Project CASE	720-933-1227
Salud Clinic	303-286-8900
School District 27J	303-655-2900
The Senior Hub.....	303-426-4408
South Adams Fire District.....	303-288-0835
South Adams County Water & Sanitation District	303-288-2646
Tri-County Health Department	303-288-6816
Voices Community Resource Center	720-542-5360
Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention	303-429-3530
Waste Management Recycle Schedule	1-800-482-6406

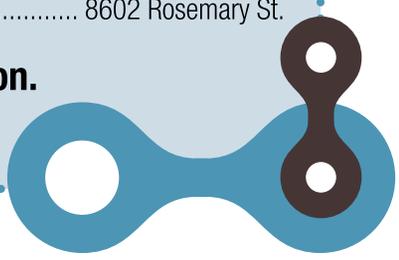
CITY NUMBERS

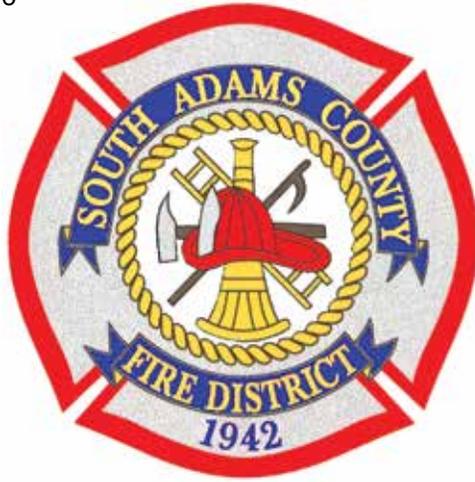
Commerce City Civic Center	303-289-3600
City Manager's Office	303-289-3612
Community Development	303-289-3683
Economic Development	303-289-3620
Communications Division	303-289-3719
Parks and Recreation	303-289-3760
Public Works	303-289-8150
Buffalo Run Golf Course	303-289-1500
Bison Grill.....	303-289-7700
Senior Center	303-289-3756
Police Department (non-emergency)	303-288-1535
Police Department (Administration)	303-287-2844
Civic Center.....	7887 E. 60th Ave.
Police Dept.	7887 E. 60th Ave.
Parks and Rec	6060 E. Parkway Dr.
Municipal Service Center (MSC)	8602 Rosemary St.

GOVT LOCATIONS

Civic Center.....	7887 E. 60th Ave.
Police Dept.	7887 E. 60th Ave.
Parks and Rec	6060 E. Parkway Dr.
Municipal Service Center (MSC)	8602 Rosemary St.

Visit c3gov.com for more information.





South Adams County Fire Protection District

6550 E. 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022 • 303.288.0835

Chief's Letter, January 2016

2015 was a big year for the South Adams County Fire Department. (SACFD) Taking the reins in August of 2015, I was handed an operation that had grown under my predecessor, Chief Ron LaPenna. Having completed the transition from an all-volunteer department to a combination department with two fully staffed stations, we are taking the next steps to improve our service to the community.

We have restructured the organization to include two deputy chiefs, Dave Bierwiler (support services) and Bob Monzingo (operations). Battalion Chief Derek Ross is now the BC of the volunteer firefighters, ensuring improved communication and a streamlined chain of command. Kevin Phillips has been promoted to fire marshal and two new fire inspectors have been hired, Brian Bierwiler and Jon Lodge. Ricky Teter has been assigned as our new training chief. We have also promoted three new lieutenants and hired six new firefighters.

We recently created a joint maintenance facility with Adams County Fire and Rescue. Our emergency vehicle maintenance division, Ken Rolland and Garry Aranda, will ensure both departments get vehicles back on the road more quickly.

As we grow, we have found a need to upgrade our infrastructure. In addition to the building of Station 4 and the SACFD headquarters, we have been working with contractors to improve our information technology capabilities, human and management resources, as well as managing our payroll, budget and financing needs.

SACFD has joined with the North Area Training Association, participating in classes, practical scenarios, and active-shooter training with other departments in the region. Together with the North Area Apparatus Team, we will be purchasing two new fire engines that will be built to specifications of all north area members. This way we can work as mutual aid with other departments and have our apparatuses be consistent.

We have also joined with the peer support group and are developing our own team to help with the ever-growing issues of suicide, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder that first responders face today.

For the first time, the SACFD is instituting a volunteer fire inspector program. Three new volunteer inspectors will begin their training in early 2016. A new academy of volunteer firefighters will begin their year-long training in January. Our recruitment and retention efforts have proven successful and we look forward to bringing new members into the South Adams family.

Under the direction of Kelsey Koger, we have expanded our youth education programs to include a juvenile fire setting curriculum and a fire prevention program. We have also partnered with Adams City High School to introduce teens to the fire service.

And that's just the last four months.

This coming year brings even more exciting opportunities. As of January, we are staffing three stations full time, which will reduce response time and improve service to our citizens. With our strong career and volunteer staff, we are able to have no fewer than three firefighters per apparatus, making us more efficient and effective.

We have also taken steps to make the work environment safer. Safety Officer/Fire Inspector Matt Morgan is developing an exposure tracker that is getting statewide attention. It has garnered interest from Cory Rose from 9News who recently did a piece on the exposure tracker in her ongoing investigation into cancer in the fire service. The exposure tracker has the potential to save firefighters from health hazards in the future.

The department has also partnered with Dr. Orent and Arbor Occupational Medicine. Arbor staff has specialized in supporting fire departments and worked closely with many large fire protection services on the Front Range of Colorado. Nearly 56 percent of line of duty deaths in the fire service are caused by fatal heart attacks. Dr. Orent and his staff will be screening our crews so we can be proactive in ensuring the health and wellness of our firefighters.

2015 was an amazing year. 2016 is going to be even better. We've been honored to hear that other departments are taking notice of the hard work, creative solutions, and consistent caliber of the firefighters of the South Adams County Fire Department. We hope you are, too. We are always revisiting and revising our standard operating procedures and our training in order to better assist our community on a daily basis and we are proud to serve you.



Fire Chief Kevin Vincel

Firefighters honored for service

The South Adams County Fire Department held its annual holiday awards ceremony in December to recognize firefighters for their service to the department and to the community.

Awardees include:

- Chief Ron LaPenna -
Past Chief Retirement Award
- Firefighter Kelsey Lowney -
Career Firefighter of the Year
- Firefighter Michael Parks -
Volunteer Firefighter of the Year
- Engineer Cole Mondragon -
Personal Citation Award

Members honored for years of service include:

- Fire Marshal Kevin Phillips - 35 Years
- Bob Kreutzer - 30 Years
- Chief Kevin Vincel - 20 Years
- Firefighter Ellis Howard - 20 Years
- Training Firefighter Chad Ray - 15 Years
- Battalion Chief Bobby Noel - 10 Years
- Firefighter Diego Reyes - 10 Years
- Firefighter Ron Symanski - 10 Years

Several members also received their
5-year service pins.



On January 13, the SACFD celebrated the life of retired firefighter John Bowman, Sr. Firefighter Bowman was a member of the South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department for 18 years, where he was a hazardous materials and rope rescue specialist, joining in 1974 and serving until his retirement in 1992. He was a member of the Colorado State Firefighter Association. Firefighter Bowman took his final ride on Pumper 207 and was interred at Fort Logan National Cemetery.