

Holidays are happier when you don't drink and drive

The Commerce City Police Department and Colorado State Patrol are making DUI enforcement a priority during the holidays, when alcohol-impaired driving causes an increase in traffic injuries and fatalities. You've heard it a million times, but we'll say it again: don't drink and drive!

Top 5 ways to avoid driving impaired for yourself and others:

1. Plan in advance with a designated driver (either someone with you or "on call").
2. Use a ride-sharing app (i.e. Uber or Lyft) or keep a taxi service number in your mobile phone.
3. Use public transportation to get to and from events when available.
4. Step in if someone you know has had too much to drink. **Friends don't let friends drive drunk!**
5. Be a good host at in-home events: provide non-alcoholic drinks, serve plenty of food, and stop serving alcohol 90 minutes before your party is over.

According to the Colorado State Patrol, DUI-caused crashes are more than twice as likely to result in injuries or fatalities. In 2014, 34.1 percent of DUI crashes resulted in injuries or fatalities, compared to 11.5 percent of non-DUI crashes.

If you get a DUI, you can:

- Lose driving privileges
- Go to jail
- Receive large fines in county court
- Pay more than \$10,000 in legal fees

For more information, visit noduicolorado.org or colorado.gov/pacific/csp/dui-enforcement.



This conceptual rendering shows an overhead view of the proposed site plan for the Mile High Greyhound Park redevelopment, which includes residential, commercial and educational uses.

Zoning process moving forward for greyhound park redevelopment

Since city council approved a master development agreement with REGen, LLC in April, work has continued to move forward on redevelopment of the former Mile High Greyhound Park site. Before arrangements can be made with developers wishing to build homes or businesses, specific uses for each area of the property must be proposed by REGen and approved by city council to update the zoning of the site.

This process allows the city to approve how the land is developed and ensures that plans for the site align with the vision put forth after the city's Urban Renewal Authority (URA) bought the land in 2011. REGen and city staff continue working together on the framework of a vibrant, mixed-use development featuring retail stores, restaurants, an educational facility, and various types of residences. These will likely include single-family homes, townhomes, and senior housing. The project also includes parks, other green spaces and improved regional drainage.

A public hearing on the proposed rezoning is expected at a city council meeting this month. Visit c3gov.com/council for updated city council meeting schedules and agendas. A public meeting was also held in September to update community members on the proposed site plan.

While the zoning process is ongoing, REGen and city staff are actively meeting with potential developers and businesses interested in building on the 65-acre site. Intergovernmental agreements are being crafted with other parties affected by the project (such as the local school district, fire department and water district) and construction documents for site infrastructure (such as roads, drainage and utilities) will soon be created. Infrastructure construction should begin on the property in 2017.

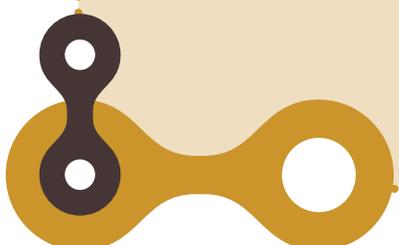
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Commerce City, CO 80022

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NEWS BRIEFS

Be a good neighbor this winter: clear snow from your sidewalk

Snow season is here and residents play an important role in keeping neighborhood sidewalks safe by clearing them of snow and ice. The city's municipal code requires that residents and businesses remove snow and ice from public sidewalks around their property within 24 hours of the last snow accumulation.

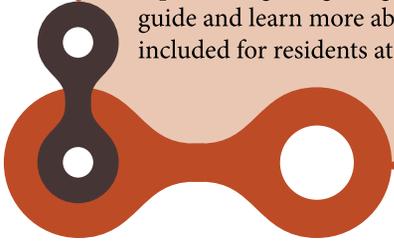
Failure to clear your sidewalk may result in a Notice of Violation from Neighborhood Services, which allows 24 additional hours for snow and ice obstructions to be removed before you are issued a \$100 fine. This ordinance applies only to public sidewalks and rights of way, not driveways or walkways located within your property. For more information, visit c3gov.com/NS or call 303-227-8860.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to shovel snow for seniors or disabled residents in your area, contact the Volunteers of America "Snow Buddies" program at 303-297-0408 or snowbuddies@voacolorado.org.



Trash and recycling info guide coming this month

Keep an eye on your mailbox this month for the 2017 trash and recycling resident information guide, which includes next year's recycling/holiday calendar along with guidelines and tips for making the most of the city's trash and recycling service. The guide contains detailed information on what to include/not include in your recycling, large-item pickup service, and disposing of items not accepted in regular garbage. Visit c3gov.com/trash to view the 2016 resident guide and learn more about the city's trash and recycling service, which is included for residents at no additional cost.



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 Travis Huntington at thuntington@c3gov.com or 303-227-8775 with questions or comments.

Recycle your Christmas tree for free

Be green this holiday season and recycle your natural Christmas tree with the city after the holidays. Six free drop-off locations are open from Dec. 26, 2016 to Jan. 7, 2017 for you to dispose of your tree without ordering a large-item pickup from Waste Management. The parks and recreation department mulches the trees and uses the material along city greenways and trails.

Contribute your tree and help keep the city beautiful throughout the parks and trails system. Last year 468 trees were recycled. Trees should be natural and free of all ornaments, decorations and stands. Wreaths, tree limbs, synthetic trees, bushes and shrubs are not accepted for recycling.

Drop-off locations:

- Fairfax Park, 6850 Fairfax Drive, at the north parking lot along E. 69th Avenue
- River Run Park, 11515 Oswego Street, at the small parking lot
- Recreation Center, 6060 Parkway Drive, at the west side parking lot
- Municipal Services Center, 8602 Rosemary Street, at the entrance south of the soccer fields
- Buffalo Run Golf Course, 15700 E. 112th Avenue, near the maintenance building
- Fronterra Park, 10020 Joplin Street, in the parking lot along E. 101st Way

Look for fencing and signage clearly marking the recycling drop-off areas at each location. Contact Willis Waterhouse, parks operations and maintenance supervisor, at 303-289-8111 for additional information.



More than 650 people attended Commerce City's Family Health Fair at Adams City High School on Nov. 12, taking advantage of free and low-cost health screenings, free flu shots and education from two dozen non-profit health and social service resources. Thanks to all volunteers who made this great event possible!



Members of the Commerce City Youth Commission have some fun with their first group photo at last month's meeting welcoming eight new members for the 2016-17 school year. Visit c3gov.com/youth to learn more about the youth commission.

STAY IN-THE-KNOW

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

- Ordinance updating outdoor vendor regulations for food trucks/carts in the city.
- Public hearings regarding the rezoning of the former Mile High Greyhound Park property and the annexation of a gas station at 8799 Brighton Rd.

There are no city council meetings on Dec. 12, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Agendas are frequently updated and subject to change, so be sure to 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



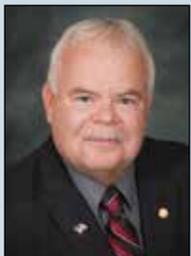
Mayor Sean Ford
Cell: 303-720-9106
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Mayor Pro Tem René Bullock
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Term expires 2017



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Term expires 2017



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Council At-Large Jason McEldowney
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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.



City budget and revenue to grow in 2017-18

Creating the city's budget is a long and detailed process which includes staff from every department. The city is thoughtful about allocating taxpayer money responsibly to provide the services residents expect while remaining sustainable.

Planning for the 2017-18 budget began all the way back in January as city council refined its goals, reviewed plans for next year, and began creating a five-year capital improvement plan. City Council continued to provide direction throughout the year on key areas of interest to residents, such as capital projects and use of voter-approved tax funds, which have been dedicated to construction and maintenance of new parks, recreation and road projects.

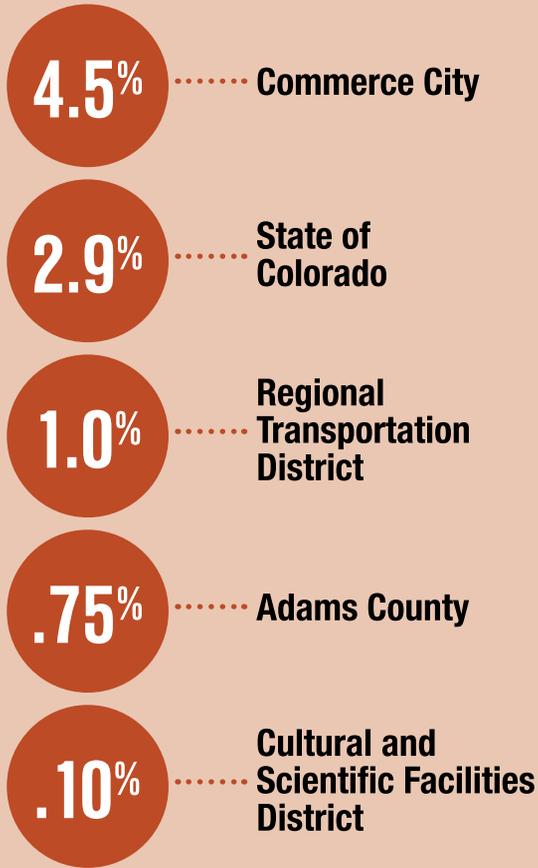
Total revenues from all sources in 2017 are projected at \$75,620,576, representing a 6 percent increase from 2016 due to the city's continued growth. Projected expenditures are divided among 14 different funds, including more than \$57 million to cover the city's day-to-day operations and nearly \$6 million to the capital improvement program fund. The city has an emergency cash reserve of just over \$17 million.

The proposed 2017-18 budget book was presented to council for public hearing on October 17 and adopted at the November 7 council meeting.

The entire city budget can be viewed at c3gov.com/budget.

Where your money goes

Sales and use taxes are a major source of revenue for the city, helping to pay for construction and maintenance of parks and roads, for example. The city's current sales tax is 9.25%, with portions of that money going to the following agencies:



CALENDAR

- Dec. 1 Youth Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6:30-8 p.m.
- Dec. 3 Horseback Riding, meet at Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Dec. 3 18th Annual Winterfest in Commerce City, Adams City High School, 7200 Quebec Pkwy., 9:30 a.m. – Noon
- Dec. 5 Holiday Art Show and Tree Lighting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 5-7 p.m.
- Dec. 5 City Council Regular Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.
- Dec. 6 Planning Commission, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-9 p.m.
- Dec. 9 Goodfriends Soup Days (Potato), Senior Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Dec. 10 Horseback Riding, meet at Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Dec. 10 Mingle with Kringle, Buffalo Run Golf Course, 15700 E. 112th Ave., 1-4 p.m.
- Dec. 10 Middle School Madness, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 7-10 p.m.
- Dec. 12 City Council Study Session, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.
- Dec. 13 Board of Adjustment, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 Cultural Council Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.
- Dec. 14 Police Neighborhood Meeting, Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 6-7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 Police Neighborhood Meeting, Stuart Middle School, 15955 E. 101st Way, 6-7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 Youth Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6:30-8 p.m.
- Dec. 16 Cops vs. Kids – Basketball (FREE, ages 9-17), Suncor Boys and Girls Club, 6201 Holly St., 4-6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17 Horseback Riding, meet at Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Dec. 19 City Council Regular Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.
- Dec. 20 Derby Review Board, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 5:30-8 p.m.
- Dec. 20 Quality Community Foundation meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21 Winter Break Trip – Skate City, meet at Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Dec. 22 Winter Break Trip – Planetarium and Celestial Seasonings Tour, meet at Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Recreation Center closes at 1 p.m.
- Dec. 25 All city facilities closed in observance of Christmas
- Dec. 26 Civic Center, Municipal Services Center closed in observance of Christmas
- Dec. 28 Winter Break Trip – Ice Skating, meet at Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Dec. 29 Winter Break Trip – Museum of Nature & Science, meet at Recreation Center, 6060 E. Parkway Dr., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Dec. 31 Recreation Center closes at 1 p.m.
- Jan. 1 All city facilities closed in observance of New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 Civic Center, Municipal Services Center closed in observance of New Year's Day
- Jan. 5 Youth Commission Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6:30-8 p.m.
- Jan. 9 City Council Special Meeting, Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave., 6-10 p.m.

COUNCIL CORNER

A look back helps us look forward

December provides an opportunity to recall the year that was in Commerce City. We are proud to say 2016 offered plenty of exciting developments around our community. In order to continue moving forward in 2017, it's important to revisit the achievements and lessons learned from the past year of work.

City Council uses five goals to guide the work being done by city staff throughout the year:

1. **Develop a balanced and vibrant economy to improve socioeconomic status**
2. **Ensure a financially-sound city government to maintain or improve levels of service**
3. **Develop and maintain public infrastructure to improve community appearance and encourage private investment**
4. **Preserve and nurture a quality community to improve resident health and safety**
5. **Engage the public to encourage community involvement, communication and to build trust**

So how are we meeting these goals?

The local economy continues to grow as the city attracts a diverse mix of businesses, from new retailers opening up on the E. 104th Avenue corridor to large industrial facilities putting down roots in the DIA Tech Center. As city revenues and operating costs of programs rise, we are always seeking ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided to maintain the financial health of the city.

New milestones are happening all the time through the voter-approved capital improvement program, showing how the entire community benefits from infrastructure investments. The parks, recreation facilities and roadways being built through this ambitious program will pay dividends for residents now and well into the future. These and other projects throughout the city include an emphasis on aesthetics and functional improvements, such as bike lanes and multi-use paths that contribute to the health of residents.

We continue to seek purposeful reforms in the police department to increase public safety and trust. This is why the city requested a voluntary review from the U.S. Department of Justice and looks forward to recommendations next year on how to better serve the community.

Engaging with you, the residents we serve, is another area we are always seeking to expand upon. Participation in our telephone town halls has allowed us to hear more input about what is important to you, as are the conversations we enjoy having at city events and meetings of the various boards and commissions. We hope to continue partnering with residents and gaining feedback in new and innovative ways going forward.

For 2017, we've identified five key priorities for staff to work on:

1. **E. 120th Avenue and Highway 85 grade separation (i.e. overpass)**
2. **Senior Housing**
3. **Competitive Youth Fields – Northern Range**
4. **Police Department Assessment**
5. **Irondale Economic Development project**

These areas are part of our commitment to remain invested in the vision of a Quality Community for a Lifetime.

The progress of 2016 sets the stage for Commerce City to keep building momentum into 2017.

2016 a banner year for capital improvement program

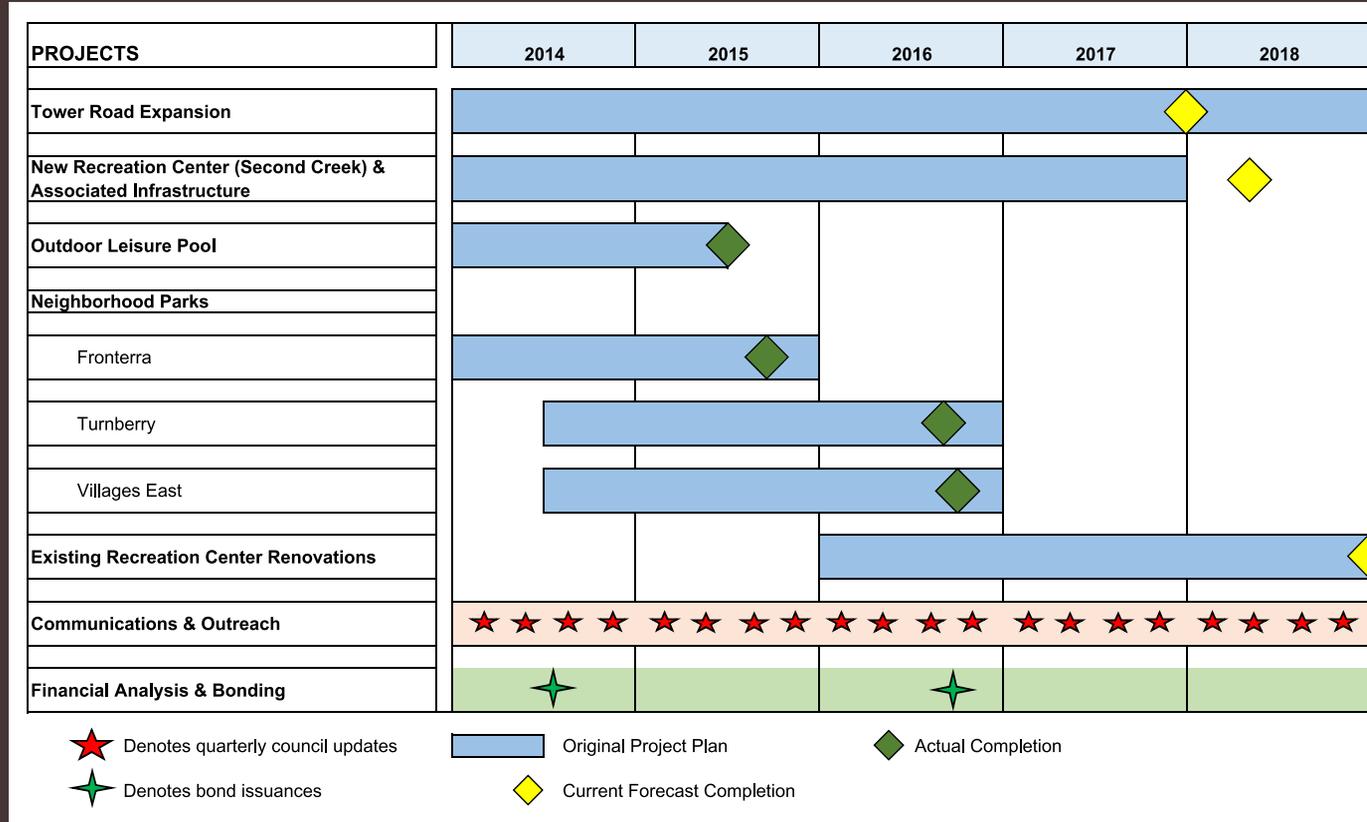
2016 has been the biggest year yet in the city's voter-approved, \$137 million capital improvement program, which is set to fulfill a promise of five projects in five years by Jan. 1, 2019.

The community celebrated grand openings of Turnberry Park on Aug. 16 and Villages East Park on Sept. 22. Construction began on the Tower Road widening project on May 10 and the new recreation center on Oct. 15. All but one of the five projects in the program are either complete or currently under construction. Renovation of the existing recreation center is scheduled to start and complete in 2018.

Other capital improvement work outside of the five-year promise is also moving forward, following similar timelines to complete in 2018. The city broke ground on the much-anticipated Highway 2 widening project on Oct. 26 and construction is expected to begin on both the Tower Road/Pena Boulevard on-ramp and street improvements around the upcoming RTD commuter rail station at E. 72nd Avenue and Colorado Boulevard next year.

The city is on track to complete all projects on time and within budget. Thanks to the involvement and input of residents like you, these projects will continue to help make Commerce City a "Quality Community for a Lifetime" for decades to come.

Capital Improvement Program Schedule



art SHOW

CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNUAL

DEC 5 TO JAN 6

COMMERCE CITY STUDENTS

ART SHOW CEREMONY AND TREE LIGHTING
December 5, 2016 • 5-6:30 p.m.

Best in show receives the Charlene Jaramillo Scholarship
Refreshments and snacks provided.

CIVIC CENTER
7887 E. 60TH AVE.

SUPPORTED BY



Members of city council were joined by State Representative Dominick Moreno (second from left) and Flatiron Construction Area Manager Stephen Cordts (second from right) to celebrate progress at a groundbreaking for the Highway 2 widening project on Oct. 26. Visit c3gov.com/highway2 to learn more about the project.

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Commerce City is one of the fastest growing cities in Colorado

The city is currently considering different ways to provide updates on development activity in 2017. Visit c3gov.com/devreport to view past Development Reports dating from May 2015 to September 2016.



Winter sports camps and clinics

Keep your child active over winter break with youth sports camps. To register, call 303-289-3789 or visit c3gov.com/register.

Lacrosse Skills Clinic

Develop the fundamentals of lacrosse during this three-day minicamp at the Commerce City Recreation Center for youth ages 8-12. Registration deadline is 12/23.

12/28-12/30 6-8 p.m. \$45/\$54



Basketball Shooting Camp

Develop proper shooting techniques and other basketball fundamentals during this three-day minicamp at the Commerce City Recreation Center. Registration deadline is 12/21.

Grades 3-5 12/27-12/29 9 a.m.-Noon \$45/\$54
Grades 6-8 12/27-12/29 1-4 p.m. \$45/\$54

Youth basketball leagues

Registration for winter basketball leagues is open Dec. 5-31. Call 303-289-3789 or visit c3gov.com/register.



COMMERCE CITY HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

18TH ANNUAL WINTERFEST IN COMMERCE CITY –

Enjoy a pancake party and photos with Santa, storytelling with the Sugar Plum Fairy, holiday crafts and treats, and a gingerbread house contest.

Sat 12/3 9:30 a.m. – Noon FREE Adams City High School

ART SHOW & TREE LIGHTING – Join the countdown and watch the festive tree lighting at the civic center. View the student art show sponsored by the Commerce City Cultural Council, enjoy warm refreshments and snacks, sing along with professional carolers, and mingle with elected officials and staff.

Mon 12/5 5-7 p.m. FREE
Commerce City Civic Center, 7887 E. 60th Ave.

MINGLE WITH KRINGLE AT BUFFALO RUN – Santa Claus is coming to Buffalo Run! Bring your camera and take a photo with Santa. Little ones will also enjoy holiday crafts. Feast on light refreshments provided by the Bison Grill and relax next to the stone fireplace.

Sat 12/10 1-4 p.m. (Santa on break from 2-2:30 p.m.)
Buffalo Run Golf Course, 15700 E. 112th Ave. FREE

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



Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Bison Grill

Enjoy a four-course prix fixe menu with a champagne toast. Call 303-289-7700 for menu and reservations.

Dec. 31, 2016 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$39 per person

Gift certificates make great holiday gifts

Purchase in the golf shop or online at BuffaloRunGolfCourse.com

Prepare children for a bright tomorrow with preschool programs

KinderKids

Children ages 4-5 learn through small group interaction and age-appropriate activities including art, music, movement, dramatic play and storytelling. Call 303-289-3659 for enrollment information.

Mon-Thur 9:30 a.m.- Noon 7101.101 1/3-1/31* \$144/\$160

*No class January 16

Preschool Specialty Classes

Preschool specialty classes are designed to help children ages 3-5 develop skills through crafts, activities, games and social interactions.

Fri	10 a.m.- Noon	\$10/\$12 per child
7201.101	1/6	Winter Wonderland
7201.102	1/13	Ocean Adventures
7201.103	1/20	Plant Power
7201.104	1/27	It's a Jungle Out There

Winter Break Field Trips

Kids ages 6-10 can travel with the recreation center on these fun-filled adventures.

	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	\$30/\$35 per trip
7501.301	12/21	Skate City
7501.302	12/22	Fiske Planetarium and Celestial Seasonings Tour
7501.303	12/28	Ice Skating
7501.304	12/29	Denver Museum of Nature and Science and IMAX
7501.305	1/4	Boondocks
7501.306	1/5	Mid Air Adventures

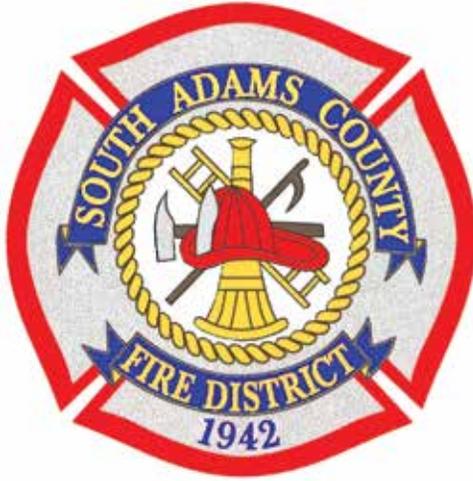
Winter/spring registration

Check your mailbox for the winter/spring 2017 activity guide or view the digital version online at c3gov.com/recreation. Registration opens Dec. 5.



Online swimming lessons registration opens for residents Wednesday, December 28.

Commerce City residents can register online starting December 28. All other registrations (including non-resident, walk-in, and phone) begin December 29. Due to the popularity of the program, classes fill up quickly. Please add your child to the waitlist if the class you choose is full and we will do our best to accommodate you.



South Adams County Fire Protection District

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

Fire safety tip of the month

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

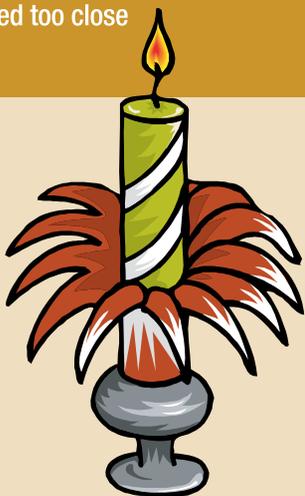
Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

FACTS

- Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.
- Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



Fire safety tips provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA.org)

SACFD hosts confined space rescue training

The South Adams County Fire Department hosted a quarterly training exercise for the North Area Technical Rescue Team (NATRT) last month at Ardent Mills, Inc. in Commerce City. The training dealt specifically with confined space rescue operations and included firefighters from South Adams County, Adams County, Arvada, Brighton, Federal Heights, Frederick-Firestone, North Metro, Thornton and Westminster.

Ardent Mills allowed the team to use empty storage facilities to simulate confined space rescue operations. Teams rigged rope rescue systems to lower rescuers 75 feet into the silos. This training helped familiarize personnel with the equipment used during confined space rescues while also assessing team functionality and strengthening relationships among the departments who make up the NATRT.

"We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Ardent Mills, Inc. and their employees for hosting the team during our training," said SACFD Firefighter Augdon Greening, who coordinated the event. "The phrase most commonly used on the NATRT is 'It's not when the last incident happened, but when the next one will.' Because of our relationships with local businesses, we as a team are better able to prepare."



A firefighter is lowered through a narrow pipe as part of a confined space rescue training exercise with the North Area Technical Rescue Team (NATRT) last month in Commerce City.

Station tours and the impact of one conversation

By Brian Bierwiler,
SACFD Fire and Life Safety Educator/Fire Inspector

At SACFD, we are committed to spreading essential messages about fire safety and prevention to kids and adults alike throughout the community. During Fire Prevention Week in October, one of my activities included visiting local schools to mingle with as many kids as possible during their lunch and recess time. I would sit in the cafeteria and talk to smaller groups of kids, keeping my fire safety message short and easy to remember: stay low and get out fast!

On one visit, a very enthusiastic little boy asked me if I had visited a certain school earlier in the week. I said I had, and he got very excited and told me that I had talked to his older sister. She came home and told her whole family about what I had told her and her friends. She explained to her little brother and her parents that if there was a fire in their house, they would need to stay low and get out fast!

That was a moment when I realized that by talking to one person, the message had reached a family of four. I have the opportunity to speak with anywhere from 500 to 900 kids during an average school visit, potentially reaching 2,000 or 3,000 people off of one lunchtime visit.

On a recent station tour, I had the opportunity to escort 9-year-old Mateah and her family through our fire station seven on E. 112th Avenue. Mateah is an intelligent and enthusiastic young lady who dreams of being a firefighter one day. She smiled constantly while recording the visit on her tablet, and we presented her with an Honorary Firefighter certificate for her eagerness to learn. I am hopeful that experiences like the one she had with the crew at station seven help cement a lifetime of interest in public safety.

If you are interested in a group fire station tour, please contact me at 303-288-0835. For more information, visit our website at sacfd.org or nfpa.org.