



City of Arvada introduces "Story Map"

By Allison Trembly, Arvada community and economic development communications and marketing manager

The Community and Economic Development work system within the City of Arvada is continuing to innovate by creating a more streamlined and transparent process to update the public about upcoming public hearings and all development projects going on in the city. Arvada currently uses, and will continue to use, a static map of all of the approved development projects.

In order to enhance this service, the Arvada team has developed a dynamic "story map" that is located on Arvada's website. The story map provides a detailed description of all future public hearing cases, administratively reviewed cases, variances and projects under construction. The story map will provide current development information by location, which includes project status and detailed plans.

This new approach was developed mainly for two reasons. First, each public hearing is required to provide several forms of notice to the public, including the posting of physical signs on the property. Such signage provides details about the upcoming public hearing; however, it is difficult to read from the street, provides limited information and is not sturdy enough to withstand inclement weather or

strong winds. The new signage will include the branded website with the case number, directing the public to more information about the project.

Second, as a provision of the newly adopted Land Development Code, the team is recommending that all neighbors within 500 feet of a development project receive notice. As the new code may allow additional administrative approvals, the city team wanted to make sure that community members could stay informed of projects being proposed in their area.

An additional benefit will be to promote this service to the broader community to help ensure greater transparency in the



development process, easier access to development plans and a clearer picture of the overall development patterns within the community. To view the map, visit arvada.org/development.

Gypsum election results

On July 7, the Town of Gypsum held their regular municipal election, after postponing their regularly-scheduled election for three months in order to ensure the safety of their staff, election judges, and voters during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gypsum was the largest Colorado municipality that had originally scheduled a polling place election on April 7, and exercising their home rule authority, chose to take the time needed to switch to a mail ballot election.

Voters elected three councilmembers and overwhelmingly approved each ballot question. In addition to supporting a contribution of \$80,000 to the Eagle Valley Land Trust's Save the Lake Campaign, Gypsum voters said yes to several charter amendments, including:

- Amending candidate petition timelines and initiative and referendum processes;
- Redefining the powers and duties of the mayor to shift the day-to-day oversight

and operational duties to the town manager;

- Permitting copies of ordinances under consideration by the town council to be provided to the public either via hard copy or electronically;
- Designating Gypsum's website as the official location for postings and publications.

CML Virtual Conference

CML's Virtual Conference is **Aug. 25–27**. This conference will have plenty of opportunities for interaction with your fellow municipalities, a virtual exhibit hall, and of course a wealth of valuable sessions to help your municipality adjust to the new normal. For more information and to register, visit cml.org/virtualconference.

In memory

CML extends our condolences to the family and friends of Sue Spencer, who died recently at the age of 81. Spencer was a former Fort Morgan councilmember and CML District One president. Spencer served on the council for 16 years, including six years as the council president.

Recognition

The International City/County Management System recently announced the 2020 Local Government Excellence award winners. CML would like to extend a congragulations to William Bell, Montrose city manager for his recognition and award for the Career Development in Memory of L.P. Cookingham. For more information, visit bit.ly/2B0fXGH.



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Newsletter

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Long-serving Colorado state auditor appointed to GASB

Last week, The Board of Trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation announced the appointment of Dianne Ray to a five-year term on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Ray's GASB term began July 1 through June 30, 2025.

In her current role as Colorado's state auditor, Ray has been widely recognized for her innovative leadership style including in 2012, by the Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants and in May 2015, by the University of Colorado Denver's School of Public Affairs. In total, Ray brings more

than 25 years of practice in governmental accounting and auditing to the position.

Prior to becoming the state auditor, Ray served as the Office of the State Auditor's (OSA) Deputy State Auditor primarily responsible for the financial audit of the State of Colorado. Ray began her career at the OSA in 2002 as Director of the Local Government Audit Division. Prior to joining the OSA, Ray worked in local governments for 15 years, including as Director of Finance and Administration for the City of Louisville.

For more information, visit bit.ly/328IXEL.

Grant funding and resources for improving air quality

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) is the lead air quality planning agency for the nine-county Denver Metro/North Front Range Ozone Nonattainment Area. The RAQC works to improve air quality and protect Colorado's health, environment and economy through planning, policy development, program implementation and a variety of outreach and education efforts that local communities and their respective businesses can take advantage of and benefit from, including:

Charge Ahead Colorado (CAC)

CAC is an electric vehicle and infrastructure (charging stations) grant funding program formed in partnership by the RAQC and Colorado Energy Office. For more information, visit bit.ly/2Ze6uB8, or email Matt Mines at mmines@raqc.org.

ALT Fuels Colorado (AFC)

AFC is a grant program that incentivizes the replacement and scrappage of pre-2009 vehicles with cleaner, Fully Electric and Renewable Natural Gas fleet vehicles. For more information, visit bit.ly/3gJD7N4, or email Matt Goble at mgoble@raqc.org.

Mow Down Pollution (MDP)

In partnership with The Home Depot, MDP is offering a limited number of \$150 vouchers for new electric mowers to area residents who recycle their gas-powered mowers. Participants use an online application system and vouchers are redeemable at one of eight participating Home Depots in the area. While in the past vouchers have been offered for other lawn and garden equipment, the

program this year is limited to lawn mowers. For more information, visit bit.ly/3gJJwYD, or email Susan Johnson at sjohnson@raqc.org.

Simple Steps. Better Air. (SSBA)

SSBA is a public awareness and outreach program to educate residents about ground-level ozone pollution and actions to improve air quality. SSBA offers a variety of resources and materials for community outreach, such as social media posts, infographics, collateral materials and more. Residents can visit SimpleStepsBetterAir.org to learn how ground-level ozone pollution affects them and what they can do to help. To download a Clean Air Cadet Kids Activity Book in English or Spanish, visit bit.ly/2BRbHWW. Contact Sara Goodwin for SSBA resources or more information at sgoodwin@raqc.org.

Ozone Action Alerts

Summertime ozone season officially began on June 1. You can sign up for email or text Ozone Action Alerts at bit.ly/3gL8t5V and find out what simple steps you can take to minimize ozone emissions at bit.ly/3gNE3jC.

The Air Monitor Newsletter

In an effort to keep interested stakeholders informed of current happenings with RAQC programs, partners, and air quality news and events, the RAQC created The Air Monitor quarterly e-newsletter. You can read the most current issue at bit.ly/3gNeC1G. If you are interested in subscribing to the newsletter, visit bit.ly/2ALfLHt or email Sara Goodwin at sgoodwin@raqc.org.

Research corner: Pew releases analysis of job loss data

Between February and May 2020, the number of employed workers fell by 20.6 million. This 13% decrease in employment in the first three months of the COVID-19 recession is more than double the decrease seen in two years of the Great Recession (which saw a loss of 8 million jobs, or 5%, from the end of 2007 to the end of 2009). In a recent analysis of government data, Pew Research Center found that certain groups of workers have felt the impact of COVID-19 more than others, including women, especially Hispanic women; immigrants; young people; and those with less education. These demographics have been greatly impacted given their prevalence in the three sectors – leisure and hospitality, education and health services, and retail

trade – that accounted for 59% of the total loss in nonfarm jobs from February to May.

Specifically, Pew noted:

- The COVID-19 downturn is the first of eight downturns in the past half-century in which more women (11.5 million) than men (9 million) lost their jobs.
- Hispanic women, who are more likely than other groups to be employed in leisure and hospitality services, have experienced a steeper decline in employment (-21%) in the COVID-19 downturn than other women or men.
- Employment among immigrant workers (-19%) has decreased more sharply than among U.S.-born workers (-12%).
- Young adult workers ages 16 to 24 have been the age group most impacted by this latest downturn, seeing a 25%

decrease in jobs. This group was also the most severely impacted during the Great Recession, with a decrease of 15% in employment.

- Workers without any college education are more likely to have lost their jobs than workers with at least some college education. While this pattern is consistent with previous recessions, teleworking may have played more of a role in 2020: 62% of workers with a college degree or higher had the option to telework as of February, compared to 22% of high school graduates who did not go to college.

For further analysis into the demographic breakdown of COVID-19 related job losses, please visit pewrsr.ch/2MW8M17.

Cherry Hills Village city manager retires



Cherry Hills Village City Manager Jim Thorsen will retire effective **July 31**. Thorsen stated he has "served 35 wonderful years in local government and feels this is the right time to step away from this career that has brought much joy and occasional anguish." Upon receiving Thorsen's resignation, Mayor Russell Stewart stated, "Jim made the Village a better place, and for that we offer a sincere thank you for all he has done and wish him the very best in retirement." The city council will hold a retirement presentation at their **July 21** meeting and encourages everyone to watch the live stream at www.cherryhillsvillage.com.

Course notebook

Register now for the 2020 Emerging Manager Summer Camp, **July 30–July 31**. This virtual event is free for Colorado City and County Management Association members, and only \$25 for non-members. Join your fellow emerging managers for spark talks, keynote speakers, panels, and hands-on breakout sessions. Day one will dive into the why and how of building diverse teams, followed by virtual and regional mixers. Day two will focus on how local government leaders can intentionally design communications that are inclusive of and effective for all our community members. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/3fj9wd9.

Telework Tomorrow

waytogo

A program of DRCOG



REGIONAL AIR QUALITY COUNCIL

July 17, 2020

Way to Go is offering Denver region employers support through their new program, Telework Tomorrow. While the workplace impacts of COVID-19 remain unclear, Way to Go can help your company formalize and implement a telework policy that fits your needs. Way to Go's Commuter Consultants offer free one-on-one assistance. For more information, contact waytogo@drcog.org.

For more information about the Telework Tomorrow program, visit bit.ly/324wWiz. To view the toolkit, visit bit.ly/2CrRyGw.

GOCO announces 2020 strategic plan

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is pleased to announce the official adoption of its 2020 strategic plan. The plan explores a new, values-based approach to grantmaking for GOCO that reflects the priorities of GOCO's partners, the needs of our state, and ideas for how GOCO can support those within its constitutional mission. To download the plan in English or Spanish, and to access GOCO's new fiscal year 2021 grant calendar, visit bit.ly/2CqRves.



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