



LARKSPUR NEWS

Town of Larkspur PO Box 310 Larkspur Colorado 80118 <http://www.townoflarkspur.org> phone: 303-681-2324 fax: 303-681-2325

FROM MAYOR GERRY BEEN

Thank you all for your expressions of sympathy and condolences at the recent passing of Myrna Been. They are sincerely appreciated.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES IN NOVEMBER

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, NOVEMBER 2, 2017 @ 6:00 PM, TOWN HALL
 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 5, 2017
 ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017
 TOWN HALL CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE, NOVEMBER 10, 2017
 PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 2017 @ 2:00 PM, ANNEX
 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 @ 6:00 PM, TOWN HALL
 THANKSGIVING—TOWN HALL CLOSED NOVEMBER 23–24, 2017
 PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING, NOVEMBER 27, 2017 @ 2:00 PM, ANNEX
 TOWN CLERK PUBLIC MEETING, NOVEMBER 28, 2017 @ 6:00 PM, TOWN HALL

Reminder: There is NO hunting permitted in the Town of Larkspur. Local residents have reported hearing shots fired within the past few weeks. Additionally, there are no animal traps other than live box or cage traps allowed in the Town of Larkspur. Any safety concerns arising from the use of firearms or traps will be directed to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

Recently a racoon was discovered dragging an illegal leg trap and was treated by the Larkspur Pet Hospital at no cost. The Town has set up a Larkspur Wildlife Rescue Fund to cover the cost of treating injured wildlife. Contributions can be made at, or sent to Town Hall. Your support is appreciated. Thank you.

The Larkspur Town Clerk will hold a Public Meeting on November 28, 2017, at 6 p.m., at Town Hall to provide information on how a small town government works and address all matters of interest to the Community at Large and the General Public. Any and all questions will be answered, as best as possible, based on factual knowledge of the subject matter.

The Town of Larkspur with the Larkspur Chamber of Commerce is looking for volunteers to decorate trees in our park in preparation for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Fest. Decoration day is scheduled for Saturday November 18 from 10 AM to 3:00 PM. Location is the Larkspur Community Park, 8820 Spruce Mountain Rd. Lunch will be provided. To register go to www.volunteerconnectdc.org

SAVE THE DATES: The 2017 Tree Decorating at the Community Park will begin November 18—this will be the tree decorating date. The Tree Lighting will be on December 2 and the lights will stay up until the last week in January. Watch for information about these events posted throughout the town. Bill Kramer will be heading up this effort and volunteers will be appreciated.

ELECTION NOTICE TO Larkspur Registered Electors and All Larkspur Town Residents:

The Town of Larkspur is holding a “Special Election” on November 7, 2017 to obtain voter approval to incur additional debt and apply new/additional tax revenue to complete construction of a new and first ever Water Treatment Plant for the Town which will remove minerals including iron, manganese, and radium to provide improved water quality and safer, healthier water.

Construction of this plant along with the new well drilled in 2014, the new water storage tank completed last year, and newly installed pipelines assures the Town will have sufficient (PLENTY) water to serve the needs of the residences, businesses, and property owners for generations to come.

No more monthly hydrant flushing, rusty and/or discolored water, reduced water outages and the ability to control water flow during water line breaks, means more reliable water for drinking, cooking, doing dishes and laundry, etc.

This has all become possible through a combination of grants and loans obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Colorado State Revolving Fund, and the US Department of Agriculture’s Colorado Rural Water Association.

New and additional revenues and debt limits exceeding thresholds as defined by the States’ Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) can only be used to pay for infrastructure improvements with voter approval. This means your vote on this very important matter is crucial to finishing this Project and providing sufficient clean water now and in the future. You should have received your ballot on or around October 16th. If you did not, come into Town Hall on Election Day, November 7th to vote. PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017.

NOTE: THIS ELECTION IS NOT PART OF THE GENERAL ELECTION BEING CONDUCTED BY DOUGLAS COUNTY. YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED SEPARATE BALLOTS FROM THE TOWN IN THE MAIL ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 2017. THESE BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO TOWN HALL BY MAIL OR DROPPED IN THE BALLOT BOX INSIDE TOWN HALL. DO NOT USE THE OUTDOOR 24/7 DROP BOX FOR TOWN BALLOTS.

Public Meeting & Council Meeting Motions & Votes, October 5, 2017

Present: Mayor Gerry Been, Matias Cumsille (Mayor Pro-Tem), Isaac Levy, Heather Sanchez, Jeremiah Holmes

Public Meeting

- Motion to adjourn the Sign Code Public Meeting. Passed 5/0/0.

Council Meeting

- Motion to approve the Council Public Hearing minutes for September 21, 2017. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve Regular Council Meeting minutes for September 21, 2017. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve Resolution 17-16, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NEW BANK ACCOUNT AND APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES FOR THE TOWN OF LARKSPUR, COLORADO. Passed 4/0/0.
- Motion to approve Resolution 17-17, A RESOLUTION CLOSING OUT THE COLORADO WATER RESOURCES AND POWER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND LOAN #D14F320, DATED JANUARY 17, 2014. Passed 4/0/0.
- Motion to approve purchase of a plaque honoring the 90th birthday of Lester Burch at a cost not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50). Passed 4/0/0.
- Motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Passed 4/0/0.

Council Meeting Motions & Votes, October 19, 2017

Present: Mayor Gerry Been, Matias Cumsille (Mayor Pro-Tem), Isaac Levy, Heather Sanchez, Jeremiah Holmes

Council Meeting

- Motion to approve the Council Public Meeting minutes for October 5, 2017. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve Regular Council Meeting minutes for October 5, 2017. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve Resolution 17-18. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF LARKSPUR, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL ELECTION ON DECEMBER 15, 2017, FIXING A BALLOT TITLE AND QUESTION, AND SETTING FORTH OTHER DETAILS RELATING THERETO. Passed 5/0/0.

VISION STATEMENT

Larkspur, a small, friendly town. A town that works together by:

Fostering a

Government of

Integrity that

Responds to its

People,

Directing

Future Growth

within

Larkspur's

small Town

Values,

Providing

Community

Facilities and

Activities for all

ages and,

Preserving the

Natural

Environment

that is unique to

the Larkspur

area.

- Motion to approve Resolution 17-19, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR A GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, MINI GRANT FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE FRINK CREAMERY TRAILHEAD IN LARKSPUR ON PLUM AVENUE. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve the Trailhead name of “FRINK CREAMERY TRAILHEAD IN LARKSPUR” for the south trailhead and the proposed signage identifying the location. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve Resolution 17-20, A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES WITHIN THE 2017 AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR THE TOWN OF LARKSPUR, COLORADO. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion authorizing Mayor Been to sign a letter to the United States Secretary of Transportation in support of a grant application submitted jointly by Douglas County and El Paso County to obtain funding for the I-25 GAP Project. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to donate \$100.00 to the Larkspur Pet Hospital for its pro bono treatment of the raccoon caught in a leg trap. Passed 5/0/0.
- Motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Passed 5/0/0.

COMMEMORATIVE TILES FOR COMMUNITY PARK PROGRAM

The Town of Larkspur has a continuing program for individuals to either design, or choose a pre-designed tile to commemorate a special event or person. After the tile is completed, the Town will affix it to a structure in the community park. We have a supplier for the tiles who can duplicate hundreds of pictures and will add the desired verbiage to any picture you choose. They can change the color for you on the pre-designed tiles, and if you would rather design your own tile, they can work from your design. The Company uses high quality porcelain tile suitable for outside use. Digital technology enables them to reproduce ANY photo, graphic design or artwork to create a single custom tile or a large multi-tile full color mural. They guarantee their custom tiles WILL NOT FADE even after a lifetime of use in direct outdoor sunlight.

This is an ideal opportunity to give back to the community and have others enjoy your art work. Your donation will go toward completing the new park and more. Come to Town Hall, 8720 Spruce Mountain Road, Larkspur, Colorado, to make your donation and order your design. If you need help completing or choosing a design, Dorothy Hise can help you with your selection. The donation amounts are shown below:

6-inch tile (minimum donation of \$30.00)

8-inch tile (minimum donation of \$50.00)

8-inch Business logo (minimum donation of \$100.00)

We hope you will be part of this wonderful program and appreciate the opportunity to add a personal touch from YOU to our Park! Thank you from everyone at Larkspur Parks & Recreation.

Reality Checks on recent Social Media postings

October 17, 2017

FIRST & FOREMOST –

- **The residents** of Larkspur incorporated as a Home Rule municipality in October 1979, so they could:
 - Best direct their future based on unique needs
 - Create their own governance, rather than having county & state imposition
 - Create & maintain their own water, sewer, roads, parks and administration
 - Create their own ordinances and laws for self-governance
 - Apply for grant funding
 - Conduct independent elections on issues important to the residents
 - Utilize municipal advantages for contracts, interest rates, tax exempt status
 - Make decisions on zoning, development and growth within Town boundaries
 - Purchase and own property to offer Town services
 - Construct necessary infrastructure in a timeframe/manner important to residents
 - Negotiate contracts for the best possible results
 - Create a Town Council to represent the Town in County & State matters
 - Hold elections, public meetings for direct local feedback
 - Create departments to manage Roads, Water & Sewer systems, Parks, Building Codes, Finance, Administration, Elections, Trash Services, Economic Development
 - Self-manage finances and allocation of revenues
 - To be able to ask questions and have input in their own representative local government
- **The residents** of Larkspur have their own water & sewer services, ensuring a clean and available source of water, especially important in light of potential Greenland well issues
- **The residents** of Larkspur voted to create a new water supply & treatment plant in November 2012
- The Town of Larkspur has been able to be self-sufficient, increasing Government Wide Net Position from \$2,482,831 in 2010 to \$4,459,312 in 2016 (**increase of \$1,975,481**)
- The Town of Larkspur has been fiscally responsible in its Town management, being able to increase its cash position from \$795,106 in 2010 to \$1,240,331 in 2016 (**increase of \$445,225**)
- The Town of Larkspur has been able to increase its gross Capital Assets from \$3,433,076 to \$8,840,051 in 2016 (**increase of \$5,406,975**) by improving roads, parks, buildings and water & sewer facilities
- **WAGES**
 - The number of residents does not correlate to staff size or wages expense
 - We have the following positions:
 - Mayor

- Town Manager
- Deputy Clerk
- Controller (part-time)
- Accounting Technician (part-time)
- Administrative Assistant/Para-Legal
- Receptionist (part-time)
- Public Works Manager
- Park Coordinator (part-time)
- Project, IT & Grant Manager
- Roads/Park/ Building Maintenance (2 part-time)
- Plan Development & Regulation (part-time)
- Much of the same governance happens within a small residence population, as in a large population. We still have the same departments and needs of a larger residential population.
 - Road maintenance
 - Park facilities
 - Water wells & treatment plants
 - Waste water treatment
 - Building/Code enforcement
 - Economic Development
 - Waste facility
 - Technology
 - Finance/Accounting
 - Elections
 - Sales Taxes
 - Business Licenses
 - Liquor Licenses
 - Property Taxes
 - County & State government meetings & relationships
 - Legal
 - Engineering for water/sewer, roads, development
 - Project Management
 - Safety
- Our per hour wage rates are lower than other nearby municipalities. Our benefits are also less than metro area municipalities.
- We have seven people as part-time staff, rather than full-time staff.
- Many small municipalities do not provide the same services that we do - garbage, water & sewer, book exchange, building code enforcement, etc.
- Our wages to total expenditures percentage is between 21% - 28%. Many other municipalities are double that or more.
- We could eliminate wages & all other expenditures altogether, if the Town annexed back into Douglas County and abided by their governance

- **INCURRING NEW DEBT FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT**
 - Town residents approved construction of the new well and water treatment plant in November 2012. This is the last phase of that construction.
 - A lease is currently funding the construction of this final phase of the new water treatment plant at 3.48% interest, adjusting every five years (most likely upwards)
 - This debt us allows us to save close to \$2,000,000 over the current financing (above)
 - The TABOR notice states the MAXIMUM repayment, not anticipated
 - This USDA loan will give us up to \$500,000 in grant revenue (free money)
 - This USDA loan interest rate is only 2%
 - This USDA loan is for 40 years, allowing us to have a lower, more affordable payment
 - This USDA loan payment is interest only for 24 months
 - These loan payments will be made by sales & lodging tax revenue increases, anticipated to begin in 2019

- **2017 BUDGET**
 - Budget already includes the new debt payment for WTP (we estimated it at \$135,000)
 - Budget is created on a Cash Basis
 - Cash Basis includes all Capital Outlay, which is then moved to an asset, so it will not be included in the year-end financial statements, which are accrual based.
 - Budget is created & reviewed in September - November preceding each year
 - Budget amendments are made in the budget year based on new information
 - 2017 budget deficit breakdown:
 - Park department: (\$82,000) for maintenance & improvements
 - Road & Bridge Fund: (\$64,000) for maintenance & improvements
 - Water/Sewer Fund: (\$154,000) for new debt and capital outlay
 - Capital Project Fund: (\$93,000) for Trails, Park expansion, Sidewalk design
 - Reserves to set aside for future needs \$75,000
 - Our Fund Balance covers the budgeted deficit

Town Council voted to adopt the name recommended by town staff for the South Trailhead. We are pleased to introduce the *Frink Creamery Trailhead*.



Signs will use lettering similar to that on the Frink Milk Bottle

Why Frink Creamery?

Because the Creamery was located across the railroad tracks from where the Trailhead will be, and the trail begins by following Frink Road. ***Frink Creamery is a significant part of Larkspur history.*** Further, trailheads should be named for a local landmark or trail destination (which ruled out Larkspur Butte, Raspberry Butte, Monkey Face, etc.).

Next steps: The trailhead will be located in the old waste transfer lot at the east end of Plum Creek Avenue. Douglas County will be completing the trail south to Greenland Open Space in April 2018. Our goal is to have the South Trailhead open and ready by April 2018.

Reminders from the Larkspur Building Department

Please review the enclosed list of what requires a building permit and what does not. It is a good idea to call the Town prior to doing any type of construction on your home or business to be sure of the requirements.

In addition, a grading permit may be required for any grading, stripping of soil or vegetation, depositing fill material, trenching or excavating. Please before you commence with any of these activities on your property contact the Town Hall for direction.

If any of your property is in the flood zone, please contact the Town Hall prior to doing any work of any type in the flood zone. No filling, grading or building of any type is allowed without a permit.