



7501 Village Square Dr, Suite 100
Castle Pines, CO 80108

www.castlepinesgov.com



THE CASTLE PINES CITIZEN

August 2011

CASTLE PINES PARKWAY AND MONARCH BOULEVARD GET A MUCH-NEEDED FACELIFT

Road reconstruction project scheduled to last until November

One of the biggest issues facing the City of Castle Pines is the condition of the two main roads within the City – Castle Pines Parkway and Monarch Boulevard. Both of these roads carry thousands of vehicles each day and are showing the effects of heavy traffic and severe weather conditions. At the August 9 City Council meeting, City Council awarded a contract to Interstate Highway Construction (IHC) to install approximately 19,500 square yards of new concrete road surface to reconstruct nearly three lane miles of the worst sections of Castle Pines Parkway and Monarch Boulevard.

The City will be working with IHC and Merrick Engineering to identify the sections of road that will be reconstructed. The process will include:

1. Putting traffic control measures into place
2. Cutting the existing, damaged roadway
3. Lifting out damaged concrete panels, which will be placed on trucks and hauled away for disposal
4. Re-grading and compacting the roadway sub-base
5. Installing a new road surface consisting of eight inches of concrete with each panel doweled into place to prevent movement between the panels

Pedestrian refuge islands with patterned and stained concrete will also be installed at the same time the roads are being reconstructed. These islands will help delineate pedestrian crossings along Castle Pines Parkway and Monarch Boulevard. Installing these islands now will save the City tens of thousands of dollars in future construction costs and will help make intersections safer for motorists and pedestrians.

Residents may be familiar with IHC, one of the largest highway construction firms in the United States, for their work on the extension of Hess Road. IHC is the same company that recently expanded I-25 through Castle Rock, a project that was completed seven months ahead of schedule. Fortuitous for Castle Pines' road project is the fact that IHC has a large concrete batch plant near the City of Castle Pines. This allows transportation costs for the necessary cement to be greatly reduced, while eliminating mobilization costs associated with both the creation of a plant of this size and delivering the large paving machines and other equipment needed. The pricing provided by IHC was so competitive that City Council decided to expand the scope of the project, which resulted in a savings of \$1.1 million as compared to other bids. Funding for this expanded road reconstruction project comes from sales tax revenue and from money derived from the annexation of The Canyons Development.



Initial road construction has begun on westbound Castle Pines Parkway

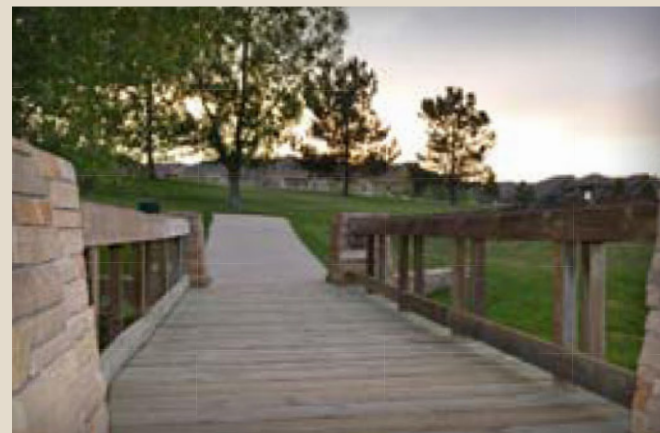
IN THIS EDITION:

Since the City's incorporation in 2007, the City has achieved a stable, efficient and responsive local government that focuses on the needs of the community. The August newsletter edition will feature some of the City's recent accomplishments and projects, including:

- » The City's transition to self-management
- » A new accounting system that improves transparency and functionality
- » Public Works planning and road repairs
- » The opening of the first City park, Elk Ridge Park



For more information, visit
www.castlepinesgov.com



The City of Castle Pines has made some great progress over the past three years. This issue of the Castle Pines Citizen highlights some major milestones.

CASTLE PINES CITY COUNCIL

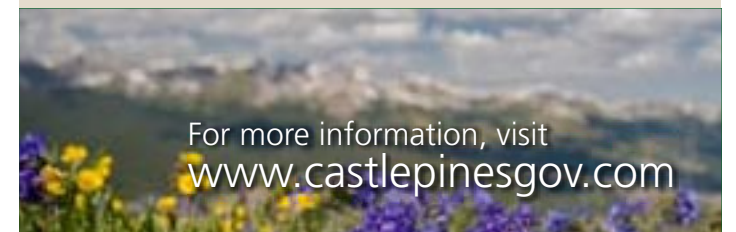


Jeffery Huff Mayor
Tera Radloff Ward 1
Maureen Shul Ward 1
Shelley Hamilton-Bruer Ward 2
Kim Hoffman Ward 2
Doug Gilbert Ward 3
John Ewing Ward 3

STAY INFORMED ABOUT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

The City is regularly evaluating how it can further serve its residents. For example, the Public Works Department solicited public feedback as part of its study to identify and evaluate ways to better balance the needs and safety of bicyclists, pedestrians and automobiles. A number of the ideas will be implemented as part of the Castle Pines Parkway and Monarch Boulevard reconstruction.

Updates regarding ongoing road projects are shared via City e-mails. Be sure to sign up to receive these e-mail alerts on the City's website at www.castlepinesgov.com. In addition, you can share your feedback and questions about public works projects by e-mailing publicworks@castlepinesgov.com.



For more information, visit
www.castlepinesgov.com

CITY ASSUMES SELF-GOVERNING RESPONSIBILITIES

Sooner-than-expected transition from CH2M Hill results in substantial savings

During the past three years, the City of Castle Pines had been engaged in a public-private partnership with CH2M Hill to provide public services to the residents and manage the operations of the City. These responsibilities included everything from street repair and snow removal to the purchase of supplies for the City office. As one of the few companies in the United States with the required expertise needed to build a city from the ground up, CH2M Hill was a crucial resource for getting the newly incorporated City of Castle Pines up and running. However, as the City evolved and grew more capable, City Council recognized the need to transition to a self-sufficient and locally directed form of governance, the benefits of which include:

- » Substantial cost savings derived from hiring staff to handle City operations
- » The ability to contract directly with various suppliers
- » Elimination of markups for Public Works services and day-to-day operations

Under the guidance of Jim McGrady, *Interim City Manager/Utility Director*, the City hired its first employee, Dan Schmick, as its *Finance Manager*. Schmick's first task was establishing the payroll and benefits package for future

employees, along with the implementation of a financial accounting system that could accurately track each and every expenditure. Shortly after Schmick joined the City, Diane Spomer was hired as *Deputy City Clerk*, with Karen Decker hired to provide administrative support and issue building permits. In April 2011, Sam Bishop joined the staff as *Community Development Manager and Zoning Administrator*. Bishop previously worked for CH2M Hill and brought a great deal of historical perspective and comprehensive knowledge of the City's development process.

The entire transition process was completed ahead of schedule on June 30, 2011, and the City has since ended its public-private partnership with CH2M Hill. Castle Pines will be eternally grateful for the hard work and years of support from CH2M Hill to help this great City take shape and begin to grow. Members of the City staff will continue to provide the very best in customer service and to reinvest cost savings derived from this transition to enhance our public infrastructure. We encourage any residents with questions to please feel free to contact 303-705-0200 or to visit the website at www.castlepinesgov.com.



Sam Bishop



Karen Decker



Jim McGrady



Dan Schmick



Diane Spomer

Castle Pines Staff

NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM INCREASES EASE AND EFFICIENCY OF REPORTING AND BUDGETING



For the first time since the City of Castle Pines incorporated, rather than working with an outside agent, the City now has the ownership of an accounting software license and has the ability to customize reports, cut checks, prepare budgets and issue business licenses

– all conveniently from the local City office and under the direction of City staff. The ultimate goal was to have the in-house ability to mine financial data, create useful reports and access accounting tools that improve budgeting and financial transparency. Caselle Clarity™, widely popular for municipal use in Colorado

and several other western states, is the program that was approved by City Council. This system will help the City leverage its financial accounting expertise with Caselle's cutting-edge software development, proven implementation and training practices, and decades of field experience.

Additional benefits of the software include the program's ease of use and highly responsive customer support. City staff was able to participate in system training by using remote access into Caselle's home offices in Provo, Utah. Castle Pines' new accounting software program is now up and running smoothly.

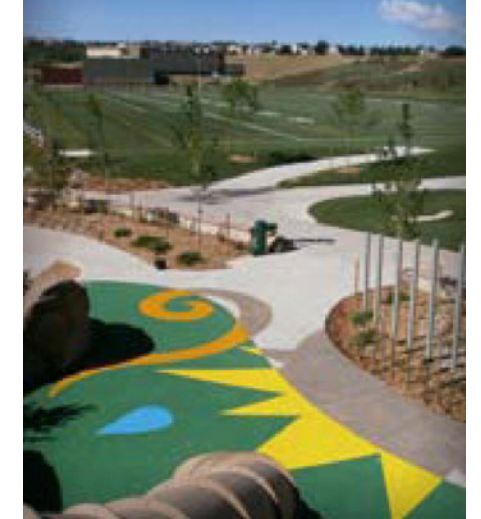
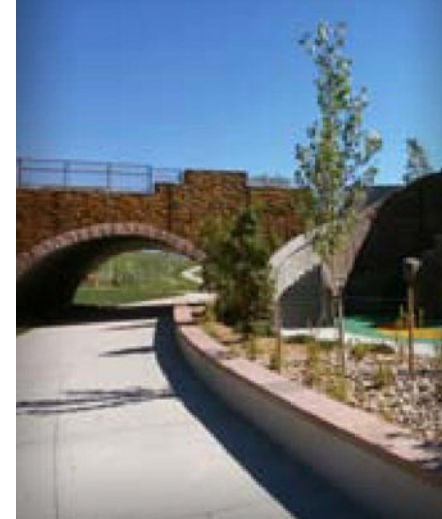
"We look forward to producing highly readable financial statements and budgets to show the residents of Castle Pines where tax-payer dollars are being used and how funding decisions are made," said Dan Schmick, *Director of Finance*.



Vote in November's Mail-In Election

The Tuesday, November 1, 2011, regular election will be conducted as a mail ballot election in conjunction with the Douglas County Clerk and Recorder. Ballots will be mailed to homes beginning October 11. Ballots must be mailed back to the Douglas County Clerk and Recorder or dropped off at the City of Castle Pines' offices (7501 Village Square Drive, Suite 100) before 7 pm on November 1, 2011. Ballots received after 7 pm on Election Day will not be counted.

Coming Soon! View voter information under the "Election" section at www.castlepinesgov.com. Questions? Contact Diane Spomer, *Deputy City Clerk*, at 303-705-0226.



NEW CASTLE PINES CITY PARK OPENS SEPTEMBER 17

Mark your calendars to save the date – the grand opening of Castle Pines' newest park, Elk Ridge Park, will be held Saturday, September 17, from 12 pm to 5 pm. Join your neighbors, friends and all Castle Pines residents for an afternoon of celebration, food, music, free ice cream and tours of Elk Ridge Park. Also featured will be "Family and Friends Kickball Games" for all ages (non-competitive). Register your team at www.castlepinesathletics.com.

Elk Ridge Park was funded by Castle Pines residents through annual homeowners' dues to the Master Association (70 percent of which is remitted to the Castle Pines Parks Authority to design, build and maintain future parks), a \$1 million contribution from CPNMD (funded via residents' property taxes) and a \$700,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado. The \$700,000 grant from Great

Outdoors Colorado was obtained by the City and dedicated to the Castle Pines Parks Authority to help fund the \$4.7 million park.

Additionally, Lagae North developer, HF Holdings, contributed land for the park, and HOA 1 did a transfer of land for the park in exchange for additional setbacks and a passive native/natural area.

As the largest amenity ever funded by this community, Elk Ridge Park is located on Mira Vista Lane off of Lagae Road, south of Castle Pines Parkway. The park is multi-generational and consists of approximately 12 acres of trails, turf athletic fields, open space, art features, playground equipment, water features, a natural amphitheater area, a climbing wall and much more.

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, September 1
CERT Meeting
HOA 1 Clubhouse
7 pm

Tuesday, September 13
City Council Meeting
Community Center
7 pm

Tuesday, September 20
Ward 3 Meeting
HOA 1 Clubhouse
6 pm

Monday, September 5
Labor Day
City Offices Closed

Saturday, September 17
Elk Ridge Park Grand Opening
12 pm – 5 pm

Tuesday, September 27
City Council Meeting
Community Center
7 pm

COURT DELAYS INTEGRATION PROCESS

City's focus will remain on growing services

After more than two years of efforts to encourage the Castle Pines North Metro District (CPNMD) to integrate its water, wastewater and parks operations as part of the City's services, the City is understandably disappointed to learn that Douglas County District Court granted a third time extension to CPNMD.

On August 2, 2011, the Court issued its ruling, approving CPNMD's motion for a continuance until February 1, 2012, to complete its dissolution plan. However, the Court did stipulate that a status report, or other appropriate motion, would be due to the Court on or before December 15, 2011, and the ruling recognized that "it is in the interests of all parties that a plan that complies with the requirements of Section 32-1-702 (of the Colorado Revised Statutes) be submitted as efficiently and quickly as possible."

"We feel like the City made every attempt to make integration as easy as possible, including developing a dissolution plan that offered a step-by-step financial plan, constructive ways to save taxpayer dollars and an avenue for

CPNMD representatives to transition onto a utility board," said Jim McGrady, *Interim City Manager/Utility Director*. "It's disappointing that after all the time, resources and money spent, CPNMD still has not reviewed the City's Assumption of Services Agreement – which has been presented to them on two separate occasions – and instead seems focused on negotiating a deal with Parker Water and Sanitation District that very few citizens in the City would support."

The City modeled its proposal after plans developed by other cities that have integrated special district services into municipal duties. Copies of research, public presentations, Q & A documents and a timeline of activities continue to be available on the City's website at www.castlepinesgov.com.

While the next steps are in the hands of CPNMD, the City remains committed to the idea of integration with CPNMD and will carry on its efforts to work with CPNMD toward developing a plan that will benefit the residents and businesses of Castle Pines.