

Safe & Attractive Neighborhoods

The mission of the Colorado Springs Police Department Code Enforcement Unit is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the City residents by mitigating physical signs of urban blight and social disorder through the enforcement of the City Code of Colorado Springs.

The Code Enforcement Unit is responsible for the inspection of publicly and privately owned-residential buildings to assure that they meet the Minimum Housing Standards for the City of Colorado Springs and to ensure safe and sanitary living conditions for all residents within the city limits.

Code Enforcement also ensures compliance additional codes of particular interest in neighborhoods:

- Public health and sanitation
- Noise enforcement
- Unlicensed/inoperable vehicles
- Oversize vehicle parking and storage in residential zones
- Recreational vehicle parking and storage in residential zones



- Junk
- Light intrusion
- Weeds
- Litter
- Graffiti
- Maintenance of adjacent rights of way
- Temporary signs
- Signs on public property or right of ways
- Garage Sale sign regulations
- Inspection and licensing of garbage/trash removal trucks

The City of Colorado Springs encourages neighbors to become community-minded and to join together in providing safe, attractive neighborhoods and sanitary living conditions for all citizens. Walk your neighborhood and meet your neighbors! Working together is the most effective program. The City invites residents to cooperate with one another in a "neighbor to neighbor" manner to resolve minor problems before contacting the Code Enforcement Unit (444-7891) for assistance. Violations can also be report on the www.Springsgov.com website, select: City Agencies, Police Dept, Division & Units, and Specialized units, Code Enforcement.

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Try these City Maintenance Contacts

Bad Pavement / Potholes (on street)	385-5934
streetsdivision@ci.colospgs.co.us	
Damaged Curb and/or Gutter	385-5918
Damaged or Missing Signs / Sign Poles	385-5908
Low Branches / Encroaching Vegetation	385-5942
Snow and Ice Removal (on streets)	457-7669
Storm Drain Issues	385-5934
Street Sweeping	385-5934
Traffic Signal Problems	385-5966
Trail Maintenance Issues	385-5944

Remember to Vote:

City Election—April 3 (mail-in ballots)

www.familywatchdog.us

Enter your address at the site named above, and a map appears with your house as a small icon. Red, blue, and green dots might surround your neighborhood. When you click on each dot, a picture of a person appears with an address. You can then pay a fee to obtain a description of the crime he or she committed.

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2007 MSCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael Hensley	439-2309
Lyn Hente	593-0942
Anne Smith	528-6834
Debby Weaver	216-4312

COMMITTEES

CONO	Francine Hansen	598-6338
Covenants	Dave Buckley	522-1375
Development	Lyn Hente	593-0942
	Anne Smith	528-6834
Events	Elke Glavan	599-4247
	Anne Smith	528-6834
Membership	Diane Beck	559-0146
Newsletter	Kerry Ann George (articles)	548-1553
	Richard Hansen (ads)	598-6338
	Debby Weaver (design)	216-4312
Neighborhood Watch	Kathleen Frazier	282-6376
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NO PAINT CANS PLEASE!

A helpful opportunity to do some spring cleaning!

Saturday, June 2nd * 9 a.m.- Noon * Call 719-227-9900 for Details



SCHOOL NEWS

continued on page 12

Kindergarten in August 2007:

- Kindergarten registration is scheduled for April 27 at Chipeta and Trailblazer.
- Chipeta will begin registration at 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- Trailblazer will begin registration at 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- Chipeta will host a Kindergarten information night on April 14 at 6 p.m.

Chipeta Eagles Soar Again!

Once again, Chipeta rated "Excellent" on our State School Accountability Report. This was our fifth "Excellent" rating in a row! The students have been working hard!

We cannot emphasize enough how much we appreciate the dedication of our wonderful volunteers. Chipeta PTA was honored last year for having the largest number of volunteers in El Paso County. Not just in District 11 or the City—but the entire county! If you are thinking of volunteering, please stop by the school. Our staff will be happy to assist you with the paperwork required for volunteers with D11.

Capital improvements recently installed white dry-erase boards in all classrooms. New lunchroom tables and classroom carpeting is scheduled for this summer. We also have received funding for parking lot upgrades to increase student safety, and we've sent out a parent survey to gain input on potential security upgrades. Thank you to all those voters who approved the bond issue.

Winner of John J. Irwin School of Excellence Award

Holmes Middle School has been rated "Excellent" for overall academic performance based on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) scores from the 2005-2006 school year. We also demonstrated "Significant Improvement" in students' academic growth through overall improvement in students' CSAP scores from one year to the next. Those scores ranked Holmes 30 out of the 455 middle schools in Colorado. Only schools in the top 8% in their grade level are recognized as a John J. Irwin School of Excellence.

Our Response to Intervention approach focuses on identification and remediation of students performing below grade level or students who should be significantly above grade level in either reading or math. This systematic approach includes extensive tutorials, monitoring progress through quarterly assessments, and setting individual student goals.

Learn more at one of the monthly **Brown Bag Lunches** on the second Tuesday of the month at noon. Parents or community members are welcome to come to the next **Parent Forum** on April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER STRIKES GOLD

Phil Royalty, a sophomore at Coronado High School, won first place in the Aspen Gold photography contest, sponsored by the Pikes Peak Heritage Center and the city of Cripple Creek. Contest entrants submitted photographs of the Cripple Creek-Victor region, focusing specifically on mining history and the area's scenic beauty. Phil's winning photograph, captured in Cripple Creek, is shown below. He photographed varying locations, capturing 120 images, and submitted four prints for the competition. He was formally recognized, as the first place winner of the youth division of the Aspen Gold competition, on November 18, 2006.



Photograph taken by Phil Royalty

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MOUNTAIN SHADOWS?

NEIGHBORHOOD VANDALISM

A report from Scott Hente, City Councilmember

Concerning vandalism in our area, City Police indicate that those committing random vandalism are typically caught in the act or when someone records a license plate or other identi-

fying piece of evidence.

Additional Neighborhood Watch organizations would help (contact Kathleen Frazier 282-6376 for info). CSPD will assist in whatever manner they can in terms of advice, additional neighborhood watch setups, etc.

Consider these tips:

- To the greatest extent possible, park vehicles in your garage each night.
- If you do leave a vehicle out at

night, make sure it is locked and that you remove purses, garage door openers, keys, etc.

- Remember to keep your garage doors down when not using them.
- Keep outside lights on, when practical.
- Don't hesitate to write down vehicle descriptions/license plate numbers that are "cruising" the neighborhood or that you think are suspicious.

Be sure to attend the MSCA annual meeting (information on page 5).

PET OWNERS TAKE NOTE

It is illegal to allow your pets to be off leash in the City; it's also illegal to leave pet waste—you MUST clean up after your pets. Increasingly, both of these laws are being ignored, especially in Mountain Shadows Park. **Leaving pet waste is a health hazard, pure and simple**—especially to children who play in the park. Allowing your pet to run off leash can have severe consequences, including criminal charges. Notwithstanding the law, please have the common courtesy to respect the rights, safety, and health of your neighbors.

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Annual Meeting Addresses Crime in the Neighborhood

On Wednesday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Chipeta Grade School in the Auditorium, we will be holding our Mountain Shadows Community Association annual meeting. The agenda will include: "Crime in Our Neighborhood" with a Police Spokesperson and also City Councilman Scott Hente discussing current, timely issues.

Police Officer David Husted from the Falcon Police Station will give us a view of the crime in our area and introduce us to neighborhood watch, which is very timely in light of the incidences that have occurred in our neighborhood.

There have been a number of reported incidents in Mountain Shadows where garage door openers, important papers, and other valuable items have been stolen out of garages and cars in the garages. In all but one

of the incidents, the garage was open, if only for a few minutes. According to the police, these thieves are making us vulnerable to a future major break-in and identity theft.

We have also experienced incidents of malicious damage to both cars and property. We need to work together and learn what to look for that will make a difference in stopping these thieves and hooligans.

Learn more about what has been happening and hear how you can protect yourself from getting your car stolen, exposing yourself and your family to identity theft and from a major break-in of your property.

Please remember that these crimes only took a minute—and that we are all

vulnerable. Please talk to your neighbors about keeping their garages closed. And, never warm a car in the driveway or leave for even a second. Come to the meeting. Together we can decide what we, as neighbors, want to do to protect this great neighborhood.

See you Wednesday, April 25, at Chipeta School, 7 p.m.

—Francine Hansen
President, Mountain Shadows
Community Association

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Protect Your Home and Property From Wildfire

While the scenery around your home may be beautiful,
mix it with warm, dry weather and it can cause a natural
hazard-wildfire.

Here are steps you can take to help protect your home
from wildfire damage:

- Keep yard debris and trees away from your home. For the
specific minimum distance safe for your climate and fuel
conditions, contact the local fire department.
- Keep your roof, gutters, and chimneys clear of debris.
- Use fire-resistive materials to enclose decks.
- Make your address visible for firefighters.
- Make sure emergency water sources are visible.
- Move combustible items away from the house.

If a wildfire is heading your way, don't endanger the
lives of your family by remaining in your home longer
than it is safe to do so.

For more information about wildfire safety, go to
www.springsgov.com, select Fire Department from City
Agencies, and select Firewise from the left column.



*A resident, not in Mountain Shadows, took this photo
at her home. Her observation is that when her neighbors
feed the deer that helps the mountain lions find
a reliable food source in surrounding backyards.
Is your neighbor endangering your pets and children?*

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Congratulations, Winners!

Take a look at these deserving 2006 winners in our Holiday Lighting Contest. So many of you, our neighbors, made the judges' job difficult!

The addresses have bragging rights until next time:

Most Elegant: 2730 Fieldstone

Most Lights: 2615 Rossmere

Most Unique: 4925 Braeburn

Kids Award: 2735 Rossmere

Best Street: Holister

Start planning now for this year!

Thank you to Dave Bolt and his team of volunteers for all their hard work as judges.



Holiday Lighting Contest winners from left: "Most Lights," "Most Unique," and "Kids Award."



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A Word from City Council

Scott Hente,
Colorado Springs City Councilmember
shente@springsgov.com or 385-5487

First, a quick thank you for voting NO on the Ballot Initiatives 200 and 201 this past November. If those two ill-conceived and mean-spirited items had passed, you would have seen severe and drastic cuts in basic City services over the next few years. Fortunately, a large majority of you saw those two

ballot items for what they were and soundly rejected them. Again, thanks.

Let me share a few thoughts on snow removal:

While the number of miles of City streets has grown over the last 15 to 18 years (an almost 50% increase) the number of people in our streets division has actually declined. Over this and previous City Councils, there wasn't a specific effort to reduce personnel assigned to snow removal—it just happened as competing City priorities took higher precedence.

The City budget is a zero sum game. If you want to add money for a particular service, you have to take a corresponding amount out of something else. Councils make funding decisions with regards to fire protection, police patrols, park maintenance, and other services. Unfortunately, our streets division received proportionally less money each year so that today we have fewer people to clear snow. It hasn't hurt us during mild winters, but we saw the effects of the gradual reductions this year. We could decide to allocate additional dollars to snow removal in future years (at the expense of other services) but we all know that we could have mild winters again and then everyone would ask why we are expending resources for something we don't need. The budget process isn't perfect—it's based on some best guesses.

All of that said, I think improvements can be made. I had the opportunity to ride with the snow plow crews during a recent storm. And while a few hours riding along doesn't make me an expert, I did observe a few things. I think we need to re-evaluate which roads (particularly residential) get plowed. Also, better technology would let crews know which roads have been plowed and how recently. Radios are not enough. Some sort of GPS system could track the crews and give precise visual information. And lastly, we are looking at creating a new facility, on the north side of the City, which could be used for street maintenance and snow removal. This would dramatically reduce the amount of time that our crews spend getting to many of the streets they have to plow.

The City is learning from this year's storms and make improvements for a better overall process. As always, if you have any questions regarding this or any other City topic, please feel free to drop me a note.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Germs Are Everywhere, So Wash Your Hands!

"Handwashing is one of the most important things you can do to keep from getting sick and from spreading germs to others."

—Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention

By Rosemary Bakes-Martin, Public Health Administrator
What's the easiest, most effective thing you can do to keep from getting sick? Get a flu shot? Cover your cough? Eat your fruits and vegetables?

Right! Those are great steps to prevent illness, but there's another step that doesn't cost anything and it's simple—Wash your hands! Frequently, with warm water and soap, especially before preparing or eating food, after coughing or sneezing and after using the bathroom or handling money.

It seems simple. Yet a 2004 survey conducted by El Paso County Department of Health and Environment revealed:

- 56 percent of residents don't wash their hands after using the restroom.
- 37 percent don't wash their hands before preparing a meal.
- 61 percent don't wash their hands before eating a meal.

Consider this: Germs are everywhere! Among the 70-plus diseases monitored by your Health Department, many are caused by bacteria and viruses that come to humans through foods and water, through contact with animals, and through human contact, such as shaking hands, sneezing, coughing, and by touching surfaces that harbor germs.

Salmonellosis: An illness caused by the salmonella bacteria, which can result in diarrhea, fever, cramps, vomiting and other symptoms.

Norovirus: A common, very contagious viral illness that causes symptoms of nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, diarrhea, fever, muscle aches, and headache.

Hepatitis A: A viral infection of the liver that can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, dark urine, jaundice (yellow skin/eyes), and flu-like symptoms (fever, nausea and abdominal pain).

Influenza: A viral respiratory illness that includes symptoms such as fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches.

Research supports the connection between hand-washing and disease prevention. Just the latest study by the CDC indicates that hand-washing with soap and water can reduce pneumonia-related infections in children under age 5 by more than 50%.

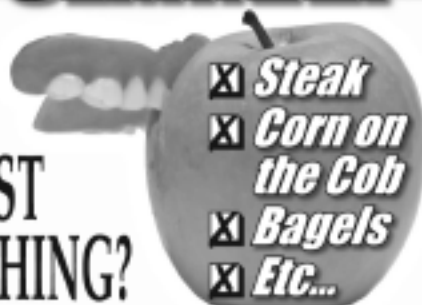
The Southern Colorado Clean Hands Campaign includes posters, fliers, coloring sheets, certificates, and other materials—available free of charge at www.elpasocountyhealth.org.

Please help us get the word out! For information about the Clean Hands Campaign, call (719) 578-3199 or e-mail us at healthinfo@epchealth.org.

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Tuesday, March 13th • Thursday, March 15th

Tuesday, April 10 • Thursday, April 19

Tuesday, May 15 • Thursday, May 17

Tuesday, June 7 • Thursday, June 12



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Preparing for a Possible Pandemic

By Rosemary Bakes-Martin
Public Health Administrator

We had a tough winter this year, but our snowstorms offer lessons about how to prepare for any emergency, including a possible flu pandemic. Think about it: Did you have food and medicine on hand to be snowed in for several days? How did you manage when trash pickup and transportation were disrupted?

Did you need the help of friends and neighbors, or did you help others?

One of the great strengths of a community such as Mountain Shadows is that you can look to each other for friendship, safety, and information. In the case of planning for a possible flu pandemic, you can look to each other for help during a difficult time.

In fact, one step that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges all individuals to take in preparing for a possible flu pandemic—or any emer-

gency—is to get to know our neighbors. In the event of a pandemic (see box on opposite page), the federal government has indicated that local areas will need to identify solutions to the crisis, especially at first. Locally, no single governmental agency or private facility can handle such an emergency alone. We'll all have to work together. How do you start?

Start by completing the "Individual and Family Checklist," the bright yellow sheet inserted into this newsletter. The kinds of preparation you need to do for a possible flu pandemic also will prepare you and your family for virtually any emergency—like snowstorms, floods, tornadoes, or whatever may come. Feel free to duplicate that sheet for friends and neighbors, and we have more at the Health Department and on our website.

As you fill out your checklist, talk with your immediate neighbors about how you might support one another in an emergency. Consider these key issues:

- Do you have each other's home/work/mobile phone numbers?

- Who has special health or mobility needs?
- Who has specialized equipment to get people out to buy medicine or groceries?
- Who might be called away as emergency first-responders? Will they need help at home while they are on duty?
- Are medical personnel—nurses, physicians, technicians, EMTs or paramedics—living in the area?
- What child care and/or elder care needs exist in the neighborhood? Could you cooperate to meet those needs?
- What needs do you have, and how could you help others in the neighborhood?

See what I mean? We're asking you to think broadly, but members of neighborhood associations already display a lot of skill in considering the needs of their neighborhoods and their entire community. And we at the Health Department are here to help you. For more information, visit our website at www.elpasocountyhealth.org

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2760 Fieldstone Road
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www.raec.org

WHAT IS AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC?

A pandemic occurs when a new flu virus emerges in the world—one to which most people are susceptible. The new virus causing a pandemic would spread from person to person as readily as seasonal winter flu. Vaccination or treatment would not be readily available. It likely would cause more serious illness and death than seasonal flu. *Pandemics are rare*—The most serious 20th-century flu pandemic was in 1918 when 40-50 million people died worldwide. Two less severe pandemics occurred in 1957 and 1968.

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Scouting for Boys in Mountain Shadows

To make a man, you have to start with a boy. Scouting is pure fun for a boy. For a community, it's a great way to acquire men who have learned principals, character and leadership during their most formative years and understand obligation, honor and citizenship.

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

Some say that these are qualities that are old-fashioned and not as relevant to modern times as they used to be. Granted, they aren't easy—but these are the qualities a boy needs to become a man.

Mountain Shadows has several great Scouting Organizations. Cub Scout Packs 187 and 27 are sponsored out of Chipeta and Trailblazer elementary schools. Boy Scout Troops 287 and 187 are sponsored by Wilson Methodist Church and Christ the King Lutheran Church. Contact one of these great organizations to see what Scouting can do for you, and what you can do for Scouting. Go to www.pikespeakbsa.org or call the Pikes Peak Council, Boy Scouts of America at 634-1584.

To make a man, start with a boy—and *Go Scouting!*

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Achievements at Renaissance Academy

Visit our free Community Forums each Tuesday night, 6:30-8 p.m. See our website for information: www.therenaissanceacademy.org.

Monthly All-School events team up students in all classrooms. The January event highlighted an appreciation for every person's contribution and individuality, yet emphasized the

role of teamwork and collaboration.

A recent Alumni Panel held an informal evening for parents of students who are deciding on high schools.

Recent student accomplishments:

Jackson Warley, Guinness World Record in Sport Stacking. Sean McGunigal, Who's Who Among Middle School Students. Thomas Enloe, State Geography Bee. Jack Habermehl, artwork selected for Imagination Celebration.

Chris Cobb, qualified for the EXPLORE exam. The Renaissance team placed ninth out of 18 in the regional Math-Counts competition. Thomas Enloe and Sean McGunigal placed in the top 25%.

Trailblazer: Excellent State Rating

Trailblazer celebrated another state ranking as an excellent elementary school! The ranking comes from how well our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders did on the CSAP assessments administered last spring. Our staff continues to focus on individual student's needs through the Response to Intervention process. Trailblazer has also been nationally recognized for our efforts in implementing research based interventions and appropriate, challenging curriculum. We are pleased with how well our students to learn and become contributing citizens.

We welcome our supportive Mountain Shadows families to visit our school. It's a place where great things are happening!

Check our updated website at <http://www.d11.org/trailblazer> for upcoming spring events.

PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking Forward to the 2nd Annual Community Garage Sale?

Our first annual Mountain Shadows Community garage sale last July 15 was a big success. Thanks, in large part, to our sponsor Kevin Patterson, president and CEO of Prudential Real Estate.

This year's sale will be Saturday, June 9, starting at 8 a.m. We'll advertise for you in local papers. Put up your own signs at street corners/house. Truck for donations will be available at end of day for unsold items. Food/drink booth will be set up by Boy Scouts.



This photo was taken by Nicole Norton, a Mountain Shadows resident. It shows a family of three bobcats together in her neighbor's backyard.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

in the Mountain Shadows Park for residents and guests. Entertainment for the kids. Free soft drinks and ice cream while it lasts.

- Sunday, June 24, 5-7 p.m. (rain day July 1—watch signs)
- Sunday, August 19, 5-7 p.m. (rain day August 26)

MSCA MONTHLY MEETING

The MSCA Board meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the staff lounge at Chipeta Elementary School, 2340 Ramsgate Terrace. These meetings are open to all Mountain Shadows residents.


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MEMBER PDCA



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

03/07

- YES, I/we want to participate in our community. Sign me/us up for the next 12 months.
- YES, I'll/we'll help out, too. Please tell me/us how we can help.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED
\$25.00 12-month dues

Please make checks payable to the Mountain Shadows Community Association.

Mail this form to: MSCA Membership Committee • P.O. Box 49072 • Colorado Springs, CO 80949

A number on your mailing label signifies the date when your membership expires.

The mission of the Mountain Shadows Community Association is to enhance the quality of life and promote the well being of the community.

Mountain Shadows Community Association
P.O. Box 49072
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

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**UPCOMING EVENTS!
SEE PAGES 5 & 13**

Check www.mountainshadows-msca.org
for information.

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6460 Flying W Ranch Road

*Come join us in celebration . . .
at a church in your neighborhood!*



Easter Worship

April 8, 2007

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Cantata: "All Hail King Jesus"
The Celebration Singers

Sermon: "God's Best Day"
Rev. Keith E. Watson

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