

March-April 2024

Facebook @ThorntonColorado
 Twitter @CityofThornton
 Nextdoor search Thornton
 Instagram/Threads @CityofThornton
 YouTube @ThorntonCO

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.

## Utility rates provide system stability and funding to meet new drinking water standards



**A look INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Planning landscape or construction?
- Have code violations? CodeCAP can help
- Free tax preparation for qualified individuals
- Thornton water bill assistance
- Save the date: Arbor Day
- National community development week
- Annual fire hydrant flushing
- Trash & recycle calendar
- School tour
- Summer job open house
- Eggcessible Eggstravaganza
- Latest public art project
- Arts & Culture classes
- T-Pass

Thornton continues to see increases in the costs to operate its utility operations for water, sewer, trash, and recycling. The chemicals Thornton uses to provide clean safe drinking water have increased in price by 55% in the last two years alone. Because of these rising prices, a rate increase has been approved for Thornton water customers with the average increase being \$2.32 per month. This new rate will provide for the long-term stability of the water system and provide the capacity to meet new drinking water standards being enacted by the Environment Protection Agency. The new rates begin April 1, 2024.

Metro Water Recovery provides all sewage treatment for the city of Thornton. About 75% of the cost of sewer services for Thornton residents and businesses is a pass-through cost directly to Metro Water Recovery. The remaining 25% is used by the utility to maintain the systems within the city of Thornton. A rate increase averaging 91 cents per month for most customers has been approved effective April 1, 2024. The approved Thornton Sewer Rates still keep Thornton near the very bottom of all Front Range municipal sewer rates.

Thornton's rates for solid waste collection have not

increased in over 10 years. Costs have increased 29% for trash, 36% for recycling, and 23% for maintenance over last year. Most single-family homes in Thornton choose to use city trash/recycling services as apposed to a private hauler, however, many residents do not have a choice due to their HOA assigning a trash hauler to their community. For Thornton customers, even with the approved increase of \$4/month, they still pay less for solid waste collection than nearly all people in the Front Range.

- Current rates are \$13.50/month for Thornton service which include curbside recycling and events.
- Rates in other areas are as high as \$44 and can include various services, surcharges and fees.
  - Northglenn, Arvada, Denver (\$16-\$21)
  - Golden, Longmont, Louisville (\$30-\$44)
  - Private Hauler low example \$18.50 for Trash only

Each of these Thornton utilities is an independent, not-for-profit, business with Thornton City Council functioning as the Board of Directors.

The Thornton Water Assistance program is available for qualifying customers. Call **720-977-5815** or email [assistance@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:assistance@ThorntonCO.gov) to find out if you qualify.

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
PAID  
Denver, CO  
Permit No. 152

**City of Thornton**  
9500 Civic Center Dr.  
Thornton CO 80229

CITY OF THORNTON

# COMMUNITY MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 16

6-7:30 P.M. | INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE CENTER | 12450 WASHINGTON ST.

Thornton residents are invited to meet City Council Members and Thornton city staff at this fun and engaging social community gathering.

Come with your questions, meet your neighbors and enjoy grilled burgers and hot dogs.

For more information and a list of future 2024 meetings, visit [goCOT.net/CommunityMeetings](http://goCOT.net/CommunityMeetings).

Have Code Violations in Your Yard?

## LET CODECAP HELP

Through CodeCAP, the Code Compliance Assistance Program, income-qualified Thornton homeowners can receive free assistance fixing yard code violations. Eligible projects include hazardous tree removal; trash and debris removal including furniture, appliances, and vehicles; fence repair/replacement and minor front yard water-wise landscaping. To apply and find out more about the program, visit [goCOT.net/housing](http://goCOT.net/housing), email [housing@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:housing@ThorntonCO.gov) or call 720-977-5818.

## Free Tax Preparation for QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS

Thornton residents with an income limit of \$60,000/year can get free tax assistance. This service is provided by IRS-certified volunteers on a first-come, first-served basis and is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, now through April 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Thornton Community Connections, 9471 Dorothy Blvd. No appointment is needed. For more information, visit [goCOT.net/Connections](http://goCOT.net/Connections) or call 720-977-5800.

## Assistance available for your THORNTON WATER BILL

The Thornton Water Assistance Program helps lower-income individuals and families to pay their water bills. Residential Thornton Water customers, homeowners, and renters can apply for the program once per calendar year. Those who meet the program qualifications will receive credit on their water account. The 2024 credit for those with a Thornton Water account is \$360 and for those living in a master meter community is \$80. Contact Utility Billing at 303-538-7370 and ask for a referral to the Water Assistance Program.

## Save the Date!

### Arbor Day Volunteer Event

*Planting trees to beautify the environment.*

Saturday, April 27 | 9-11 a.m.  
Pecos Park | W. 96th Ave. & Orangewood Dr.



VISIT [GOCOT.NET/VOLUNTEER](http://GOCOT.NET/VOLUNTEER) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## Planning landscaping or construction? Be sure you don't change your lot's drainage pattern

Thornton frequently receives complaints from residents about changes on an adjacent property that now affect the drainage around their home. Some of the issues include constructing a new fence that now blocks flow across or along the property line; constructing a block or timber landscaping wall that does the same; changing the discharge point of a sump pump or downspouts; or "leveling" the ground to place a new sidewalk, driveway, or shed near the property line. City Code, Section 18-657, prohibits changing the pattern of stormwater flows after construction per an approved drainage plan. Generally, two drainage patterns are designed for individual lots:

- A "Type A" lot is set up to drain from the back lot line to the street. This type of lot depends on an uninterrupted path along the side lot line between two properties, from the back corners to the front sidewalk and top of curb. The side lot drainage is typically graded out to be shared equally between the two lots. Constructing a patio, driveway, side of the house sidewalk, solid fence, or retaining wall up against the property line potentially pushes all the drainage onto another property.

- A "Type B" lot has a high point on the lot. Drainage from the back side of the structure drains to the back lot line, and from the front side of the structure drains to the street. At the back of the lot, the drainage is either intended to 1) flow into the lot to the rear, or 2) the common back lot lines form a swale that then drains lot to lot along the back lot lines until it reaches a street, inlet, or stream channel. Under the first scenario the lower lot cannot construct obstructions for flow coming across the back lot line. Under the second scenario, the downhill lots cannot construct obstructions to flow passing from the high end of their backlot to the lower end. There is still drainage required along the side lot lines of a Type B lot to provide free drainage between adjacent structures.

So, if you are considering making alterations to your property, including new landscaping or trees, first carefully observe the drainage patterns along the sides, back, and even the front of your lot, and ensure that you do not inadvertently change the drainage patterns.

## Broadband services coming to Thornton

Thornton residents and businesses will have a new option for high-speed broadband services in Thornton in the not-so-distant future. In January, Thornton entered into an agreement with Ting to build a fiber-to-the-home broadband service throughout the city. Ting provides a 2-gigabit speed to every customer using a fiber optic network, and offers internet to residents who qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) at no cost to them. Ting representatives presented before the City Council on February 13, 2024, letting them know it is the company's plan to start the installation of the new fiber optic network in the near future. Ting serves

other communities in Colorado and has been praised for their customer service and communication with people during construction of the fiber infrastructure.

"For years, people in Thornton have told us they want options and competition for high-speed broadband services in our city. We could not be happier that we reached agreement with Ting to come in and provide their 2-gigabit service to the residents and businesses in Thornton," says Mayor Jan Kulmann. Ting brings a reputable track record for providing quality service and we believe our partnership with them will enhance the quality of life for residents in Thornton."

## Volunteer for the upcoming neighborhood clean-up event

A Neighborhood Clean-up event is scheduled in May, and your help is needed. As a volunteer you will help during neighborhood clean-ups and assist eligible residents unable to maintain their yard to avoid City Code violations. Services provided include mowing, weed whacking, light tree and brush trimming, raking, and general clean-up. Volunteers ages 13-17 are welcome with parent permission. Community organizations are encouraged to volunteer. For more details and to register, visit [goCOT.net/volunteer](http://goCOT.net/volunteer).



## BOARD & COMMISSION VACANCIES

Now accepting applications for:

- LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY
- ELECTION COMMISSION
- THORNTON ACTIVE ADULT BOARD
- PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
- BUSINESSES OF THORNTON ADVISORY COMMISSION
- BUILDING CODE ADVISORY BOARD
- THORNTON ARTS, SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL (TASHCO) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Application Deadline is March 11, 2024

[GOCOT.NET/BOARDSANDCOMMISSIONS](http://GOCOT.NET/BOARDSANDCOMMISSIONS)



For more information contact Thornton's City Clerk's office at 303-538-7230 or [clerk@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:clerk@ThorntonCO.gov).

# National Community Development Week: April 1-5

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is among the few flexible sources of federal funds that remain available to rural governments for community development. For 50 years these grants have been used to benefit aspects of communities across the U.S. "Annually Thornton receives this grant that can be used for housing, public facilities, public services, and economic development activities that benefit our low to moderate-income residents and neighborhoods," says Thornton Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, & Community Services. Jaylin Stotler. "Using the grant funds, Thornton has administered home repair programs; solar panel installations; emergency rent, mortgage, and utility assistance; homeless assistance programs; ADA sidewalk improvements; park improvements; and more," says Stotler. The CDBG program and the benefits it brings to communities are spotlighted each year in April during National Community Development Week. Thornton is currently accepting 2024 grant funding applications from agencies with eligible projects. Applications from qualified agencies are due on April 12, at 5 p.m. As a resident or stakeholder, if you would like to provide any input on programs, projects or activities that should be funded with this grant, call Thornton Community Connections at **720-977-5800** or email [cdbg@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:cdbg@ThorntonCO.gov).

## Spring brings the annual fire hydrant flushing

The city will begin fire hydrant flushing throughout Thornton this spring to ensure the proper operation of the fire hydrants and clean the water system mains. During the flushing operation, Thornton water customers may experience cloudy or rust-colored water from the tap, however, the water is safe to drink during this time.

## School Tour shows students how local government operates

Thornton hosted 50 students from Valley View Innovation School recently. The students learned about the workings of local government, including a station tour by Thornton Fire Department. They looked inside an ambulance and fire engine, toured the Justice Center and Police Department, and participated in a mock city council meeting with the City Clerk's Office.



### Your Thornton

## TRASH & RECYCLE CALENDAR

For details about any of the programs listed below, visit [goCOT.net/trashrecycling](http://goCOT.net/trashrecycling), email [environmentalservices@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:environmentalservices@ThorntonCO.gov) or call **720-977-6200**.

#### Landfill Day - Saturday, March 16, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Republic Services Tower Landfill, 19260 E. 88th Ave., Commerce City. The gate fee is waived for Thornton residents to drop-off non-hazardous debris. One vehicle load per household. Pickup trucks, cars, and small single-axle trailers only. Electronics and liquids will not be accepted. Mattresses are subject to an additional fee. All loads must be covered. Restrictions and limitations apply. Proof of residency is required.

#### Tree Branch/Compost Drop-off - Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m.- noon

Thornton residents may bring tree branches and organic material to the Thornton IMC, 12450 Washington St. north entrance off 126th Avenue. Restrictions and limitations apply. Proof of residency required.

#### Electronic Recycling Drop-off - Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thornton's IMC, 12450 Washington Street. Open to Adams County residents. Fees apply. Visit [goCOT.net/trashrecycling](http://goCOT.net/trashrecycling) for information and to register online for an appointment. Restrictions and limitations apply.

City of Thornton trash/recycling customers can download the City of Thornton Recycles mobile app to their cellphone or tablet. Look for it in the App Store and on Google Play.

## Thornton City Council

[goCOT.net/council](http://goCOT.net/council)



### Mayor

**Jan Kulmann**  
303-538-7531 - City  
720-201-6155 - Cell  
Jan.Kulmann  
@ThorntonCO.gov



### Ward 1

**Kathy Henson**  
303-538-7534 - City  
720-672-5067 - Cell  
Kathy.Henson  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Justin Martinez**  
303-538-7537 - City  
720-880-8145 - Cell  
Justin.Martinez  
@ThorntonCO.gov



### Ward 2

**Roberta Ayala**  
303-538-7536 - City  
720-446-9082 - Cell  
Roberta.Ayala  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Jessica Sandgren**  
303-538-7535 - City  
720-753-2877 - Cell  
Jessica.Sandgren  
@ThorntonCO.gov



### Ward 3

**David Acunto**  
303-538-7532 - City  
720-295-9850 - Cell  
David.Acunto  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Tony Unrein**  
303-538-7533 - City  
303-919-3720 - Cell  
Tony.Unrein  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Chris Russell**  
303-538-7530 - City  
720-400-6278 - Cell  
Chris.Russell  
@ThorntonCO.gov



### Ward 4

**Mayor Pro Tem  
Karen Bigelow**  
303-538-7201 - City  
720-899-7811 - Cell  
Karen.Bigelow  
@ThorntonCO.gov

# What's happening in Thornton?

All events listed below are subject to change. Visit [ThorntonCO.gov](http://ThorntonCO.gov) for calendar updates.

**Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Homebuyer Workshop

**Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.**  
Working with Your Home Landscape

**Saturday, March 9, 8:30 a.m.**  
Community Walk

**Saturday, March 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Homebuyer Workshop

**Saturday, March 16, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
Landfill Day

**Tuesday, March 19, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.**  
Waterwise Yards: Turf Removal Zoom

**Saturday, March 23, 9-11 a.m.**  
Farmer's Highline Canal Clean-up

**Tuesday, March 26, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.-noon**  
Eggcessible Eggstravaganza

**Tuesday, April 2, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Homebuyer Workshop

**Tuesday, April 9, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m.-noon**  
Tree Branch/Compost Drop-Off

**Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Homebuyer Workshop

**Tuesday, April 16, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Tuesday, April 23, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Saturday, April 27, 9-11 a.m.**  
Arbor Day Tree Planting

**Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Homebuyer Workshop

**Tuesday, May 7, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m.-noon**  
Tree Branch/Compost Drop-Off

**Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Homebuyer Workshop

**Tuesday, May 14, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Tuesday, May 21, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Monday, May 27**  
Memorial Day  
City Offices closed

**Tuesday, May 28, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Homebuyer Workshop

**Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
Thorntonfest

**Saturday, June 1, 7 p.m.**  
Movies in the Park - Little Mermaid

**Tuesday, June 4, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Wednesday, June 19**  
Juneteenth  
City Offices closed

**Saturday, June 22, 12-3 p.m.**  
Bicycle Rodeo  
Carpenter Park Fields,  
11000 Colorado Blvd.

## City Facilities & Commonly Used Numbers

Thornton City Hall  
9500 Civic Center Dr., 80229

Thornton Police Department  
and Municipal Court  
9551 Civic Center Dr., 80229

Infrastructure Maintenance Center  
12450 Washington St., 80241

Margaret W. Carpenter  
Recreation Center  
11151 Colorado Blvd., 80233

Thornton Community Center  
2211 Eppinger Blvd., 80229

Thornton Active Adult Center  
11181 Colorado Blvd., 80233

Thornton Arts & Culture Center  
9209 Dorothy Blvd., 80229

Trail Winds Recreation Center  
13495 Holly St., 80602

Thornton Community Connections  
9471 Dorothy Blvd., 80229

Active Adult Center ..... 303-255-7850

Alliance Business Assist. Center ... 720-674-3547

Animal Control ..... 720-977-5250

Arts & Culture Center ..... 720-977-5880

Building Inspection ..... 303-538-7250

Building Permits ..... 303-538-7250

Business Assistance ..... 303-538-7605

Carpenter Recreation Center ..... 303-255-7800

City Clerk's Office ..... 303-538-7230

City Communications ..... 303-538-7279

City Council & Mayor ..... 303-538-7002

City Manager's Office ..... 303-538-7002

Code Compliance ..... 303-538-7517

Community Connections ..... 720-977-5800

Economic Development ..... 303-538-7605

Fire Department (non-emergency) ... 303-538-7602

Human Resources ..... 303-538-7245

Municipal Court ..... 720-977-5400

Parks, Recreation &  
Community Programs ..... 303-255-7800

Police (non-emergency) ..... 720-977-5150

Pothole Repair ..... 720-977-6464

Snow & Ice Control ..... 720-977-6464

Trail Winds Recreation Center ..... 720-977-5700

Trash & Recycling ..... 720-977-6200

Utilities (Water, Sewer) ..... 720-977-6500

Utility Billing ..... 303-538-7370

Volunteer Hotline ..... 720-977-5760

Voter Registration ..... 303-538-7230

Water Quality ..... 303-255-7770

### Editorial Staff

Todd Barnes, 303-538-7279  
Managing Editor/Communications Director

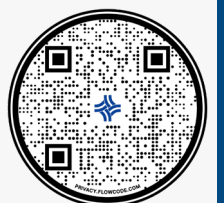
Lisa Wilson, 303-538-7282  
Editor, Writer/Deputy Communications Director

Erika Barnard-Hollinshead, 303-538-7256  
Writer, Design/Digital & Print Media Specialist

Gina Lantz, 303-538-7575  
Design/Digital & Print Media Specialist

Photographers: City Staff, GettyImages® and Thinkstockphotos®  
A special THANKS to all city Departments and Divisions for their contribution to the Thornton City Voice newspaper.

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.



## Thornton's latest work of public art installed in Thornton's newest park

Thornton's newest work of public art was installed recently in the city's newest park, Sky Park, 950 W. 88th Ave. "The sculpture is a five-foot by six-foot cube structure made of mirror-plated aluminum atop an eight-foot metal pole," says Thornton Arts & Culture Manager Alisa Zimmerman. "The mirror plates reflect different images of the sky to engage and activate the space." You can view other pieces in the city's art collection all around Thornton or simply visit [goCOT.net/publicart](http://goCOT.net/publicart).



THORNTON ARTS ACADEMY

# ART CLASSES

**CHECK OUT THE NEW SEASON OF CLASSES FOR KIDS, TEENS AND ADULTS!**

TO SEE THE FULL CLASS SCHEDULE, VISIT [ARTSTHORNTON.COM](http://ARTSTHORNTON.COM). To register, visit [goCOT.net/registration](http://goCOT.net/registration) or call 720-977-5901.

# T-Pass

- Unlimited admission to both outdoor pools.
- Unlimited admission to both recreation centers.
- One Sport Package per day at the batting cages.
- One small bucket of range balls per day at the golf course.

Beginning Monday, April 1, the T-Pass will be available for purchase at both recreation centers and the batting cages. Passes will also be available at the outdoor pools once they open for the 2024 season.

**\$50 R/NR per person**  
Ages 10-16 Pass is valid Memorial Day-Labor Day 2024.