



November-December 2024



Facebook
@ThorntonColorado



X (formerly 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.



Want to CONNECT?

We invite you to attend a ward or community meeting to find out what's happening in the city and talk with City Council representatives.

Community Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 6 p.m.
Trail Winds Recreation Center
13495 Holly St.

Ward 3 Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 6 p.m.
Trail Winds Recreation Center
13495 Holly St.

Thornton City Council welcomes new City Manager, ushering in a new era of leadership

Tansy Hayward is the new City Manager for the city of Thornton. She started working for Thornton on October 21, 2024, and was sworn in on October 22 at the City Council Meeting. Thornton's Mayor and City Council unanimously selected Hayward after an extensive and competitive selection process, during which Hayward emerged as the top candidate. Hayward's contract was formally presented for approval at the August 27, 2024, Thornton City Council meeting. Many on the Council stated that the decision to appoint Hayward reflects a shared commitment to maintaining Thornton's status as a forward-thinking, community-focused city.

"Thornton is a beautiful place with an amazing quality of life," said Hayward. "The collective efforts of the community, and current and prior elected officials and staff have not only built this exceptional community, but have also positioned it for the future. I'm thrilled to make Thornton my new home and honored that I will have the opportunity to work in partnership to shape that future."

Hayward's last position was with Raleigh, North Carolina where she worked since 2014, and served as Deputy City

Manager since 2021. Previously she worked for Tacoma, Washington for eight years, with the last six years as the Assistant City Manager. Hayward has broad experience supervising Departments across her career and has led and assisted departments with major projects and decisions, including many that prepare for growth. Hayward is a native Kansan and holds her undergraduate and MPA degrees from the University of Kansas.

She has 21-year-old twin daughters and two golden retrievers.



Thornton opens newly constructed Community Center and Anythink Library



Thornton opened the doors to the newly constructed Thornton Community Center, 2211 Eppinger Blvd., on Saturday, October 26. The highly anticipated event brought together community members, dignitaries, and invited guests to celebrate the unveiling of this state-of-the-art facility. "We are excited to open the doors of the new Thornton Community Center and Anythink Library to our residents," said Thornton Recreation Administrator Jenny Dowdell. "This facility represents our commitment to providing a vibrant, inclusive space that promotes health, education, and community connection."

The new facility offers:

- Anythink Library: A full library collection, public computers, dedicated spaces for children and teens, study rooms, and The Studio Maker Space.
- Recreation Facilities: Walking track, weight room, cardio and circuit area, TRX equipment, and a gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball.

- Community Spaces: Coffee corner, classrooms for new programming and rentals, meeting rooms, multipurpose rooms, an outdoor amphitheater, and a meditation garden.
- Recreation Programming: preschool, dance, Tae kwon do, boxing, and more to continue continuity and growth in community engagement and well-being.

The original Thornton Community Center, built in 1974, was the first recreation facility in the city, and was closed for demolition on August 5, 2022. "Thornton is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its residents by providing exceptional services, facilities, and opportunities for all," says Dowdell. "With a strong commitment to community engagement and innovation, Thornton continues to be a vibrant place to live, work, and play."

For more information, visit goCOT.net/tcc.

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 331

THORNTON
9500 Civic Center Dr.
Thornton CO 80229



MAYOR'S FOOD AND SOCK DRIVE

November 1-30

Donations of non-perishable holiday food items and new socks will benefit local food banks and individuals experiencing homelessness. Drop off donations during regular business hours at the following locations:

- Trail Winds Recreation Center, 13495 Holly St.
- Carpenter Recreation Center, 11151 Colorado Blvd.
- Community Connections, 9471 Dorothy Blvd.
- Community Center, 2211 Eppinger Blvd.
- Thornton Active Adult Center, 11181 Colorado Blvd.
- Thornton Fire Stations 1-6, Visit [goCOT.net/fire](https://www.goCOT.net/fire) for locations.

For more information, visit [goCOT.net/Connections](https://www.goCOT.net/Connections) or contact Community Connections at 720-977-5800 or Connections@ThorntonCO.gov.

HELP FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

During this holiday season

The city of Thornton is working to connect families in need with holiday gifts and grocery gift cards. If you're interested in 'adopting a family' for the holiday season, please visit [perfectholidaygift.ThorntonCO.gov](https://www.perfectholidaygift.ThorntonCO.gov) to read more about your neighbors in need. For questions and available holiday resources, contact Community connections at [goCOT.net/connections](https://www.goCOT.net/connections), 720-977-5800 or connections@ThorntonCO.gov.

LOMA LINDA PARK GETS A NATIVE MAKEOVER

Loma Linda Park has a fresh new look, featuring water-wise native landscaping. Thanks to a grant from Resource Central and funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2,500 square feet of turf was replaced with a vibrant low-water garden bed of 600 perennials.



JOIN THE THORNTON ASSISTANCE FUNDS COMMITTEE!

Thornton residents can serve on the TAF Committee and help review grant applications, interview applicants, and recommend funding for local organizations supporting our community.

Apply by December 20. For more information visit [goCOT.net/TAF](https://www.goCOT.net/TAF).

Thornton PD Co-Responder Teams are making a real difference in our community

A recent study by the American Psychological Association found that almost 20% of calls to law enforcement are about mental health crises. In Thornton, these calls used to be answered by patrol officers. But as of October 2023, the Thornton Police Department has a new approach: the Co-Responder Teams.

These teams, made up of a police officer and a licensed mental health clinician, handle most of these challenging calls now. They deal with everything from substance abuse to mental health issues, medical concerns, and various other stressful situations. They respond and connect with Thornton residents in crisis, combining their skills to ensure everyone's safety, identify the core issues, and find a positive way forward. They also follow up with people they've previously helped and take on referrals from other officers or departments. Here are a few examples of the amazing work the Co-Responder Teams are doing:

Helping a Resident Rebuild her Life

Patrol officers called the Co-Responder Team to help a woman who had lost both her parents and her home within a short period. Her neighbor had taken her in, and that's where the team met her. She shared that her home had been condemned after her parents died and that she had never had a driver's license, insurance, a job, or lived on her own. She was dealing with high anxiety, grief, and a lack of independence.

The team stepped in to provide support. They connected her with mental health resources and helped her get a therapist to work through her grief and develop coping skills. With their help, she applied for jobs and eventually found an apartment. Each time they met, she expressed her gratitude and shared how she was taking control of her future, despite her challenging past.

Averting a Tragic Outcome

One night, a man called 911 saying he planned to end his life but wanted first responders to find him before his



wife did. Co-Responder Clinician Nora Sullivan began texting the man while Officer Antillon drove to his address. Nora managed to get him on the phone and calm him down enough to accept help. Once they arrived, officers ensured everyone's safety, and Nora, along with Clinician Ellen Pronio, talked to the man inside his home. He talked extensively with Sullivan and Officer Antillon and agreed to assistance.

Offering Lifesaving Support to Overdose Survivors

Part of the program's funding comes from a grant tied to opioid settlement funds. This enables the team to follow up with overdose survivors and provide them with lifesaving medication like naloxone. During these follow-up visits, the team speaks with both the survivors and their relatives, educating them about the dangers of drug addiction and offering support resources. They also teach friends and family members how to use naloxone, potentially saving lives in future emergencies.

The Heart of the Co-Responder Program

The mission of the Thornton Police Department Co-Responder Program is simple but powerful: "To promote wellness and safety in our community by providing effective and compassionate behavioral health response and intervention." The program is growing and evolving, bringing more help, new policing approaches, and essential services to Thornton residents.

This holiday season Shop local, Dine Local, Shop Thornton

The holiday season is here, and there's no better way to celebrate than by supporting our Thornton community! This year, make your holiday shopping even more special by discovering the unique gems that our local businesses have to offer.

Shopping locally means more than just finding the perfect gift – it helps create jobs, boosts our local economy, and ensures that Thornton continues to thrive. Every purchase you make directly contributes to the growth and vitality of our city.

Want to make holiday shopping even more fun? Join the Shop Thornton for the Holidays Scavenger Hunt! Simply

download the GooseChase app, search for code 5ZQX8Q, and start collecting points to win exciting prizes.

And while you're out hunting for gifts, don't forget to grab a bite at one of Thornton's great local restaurants. New dining options like Outlaw Wings, Spice Kitchen, Tikka and Grill, and Wapos Cantina have recently opened, thanks to Thornton Economic Development's efforts to expand our culinary scene. Check out our restaurant guide at [goCOT.net/restaurants](https://www.goCOT.net/restaurants) and support local.

This holiday season, make a difference—shop local, dine local, and share the festive spirit right here in Thornton.

Shopping carts belong in stores, not neighborhoods!

Abandoned shopping carts are not only unsightly, but also pose safety risks to pedestrians and motorists. Left unchecked, they can lead to more severe blight issues. That's why in May 2024, the Thornton City Council passed an ordinance to establish a comprehensive program for removing shopping carts from public areas. The program authorizes the city to charge retail owners for each cart retrieved.

Thornton Code Compliance has launched a new shopping cart retrieval program to ensure abandoned carts don't go unnoticed. Thornton has partnered with Kept Companies for a citywide shopping cart retrieval effort.

Here's how it works:

- Weekly Sweeps: Kept Companies conducts weekly sweeps in areas most affected by abandoned carts.
- On-Demand Pickups: In less affected areas, cart

retrieval is done on a complaint basis. Coverage can be adjusted based on demand.

- Cart Disposal: Unidentifiable carts, or those not claimed by stores, will be disposed of by the city.



You can report abandoned shopping carts at [keptcompanies.com/cart-report](https://www.keptcompanies.com/cart-report), use the MyThornton app, or call 1-800-847-3735. For more information, visit [goCOT.net/reportcarts](https://www.goCOT.net/reportcarts), or contact Thornton Code Compliance at 303-538-7517 or Code@ThorntonCO.gov.



Saturday, December 14
Fun Run 10:10 a.m. | 5K 10:15 a.m.
Carpenter Park

Choose from the chip-timed 5K or experience the festive atmosphere in a shorter distanced, untimed Fun Run/Walk.

Festive mug and coupon for a free beer from our beer garden included with registration.

Visit winter5k.com to register and for details.
 Questions? Please call 720-977-5853.






CodeCAP celebrates a successful first year of assisting Thornton homeowners

Since its launch on August 23, 2023, Thornton's Code Compliance Assistance Program (CodeCAP), has been making a significant impact on the community. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), CodeCAP helps income-eligible homeowners in Thornton address and resolve code violations in their yards. The program covers a range of projects, including the removal of hazardous trees, trash and debris clean-up, fence repairs or replacements, and minor restorative front yard landscaping.

In its first year, CodeCAP has already made a difference in the lives of many residents. The program assisted 23 homes and is currently processing 19 active applications. Beyond individual assistance, CodeCAP introduced Neighborhood Clean-Up Events, which aim to support the community and tackle widespread yard code violations. These events have served 13 homes and involved 182 hours of volunteer work. Additionally, CodeCAP provided one-on-one support to residents referred by Thornton's Code Compliance team, bringing another seven homes into code compliance with the help of four dedicated volunteers who contributed over 130 hours of their time.

CodeCAP's innovative approach to community assistance is not only unique to Colorado but has also earned recognition beyond Thornton. The Denver Regional Council of Governments honored CodeCAP with the 2024 Metro Vision Award, celebrating the program's commitment to improving neighborhood standards and fostering a spirit of community involvement. For more information about the program, visit goCOT.net/Housing or call 720-977-5800.

Your Thornton TRASH & RECYCLE CALENDAR

City trash/recycling customers can access their 2025 collection calendar by visiting goCOT.net/trashrecycling where they can sign up to receive reminders, print a schedule, or embed it in their person iCal, Google Calendar, or Microsoft Outlook Calendar. Customers can also download the free mobile app City of Thornton Recycles which is available in the App Store and on Google Play.

For details about any of the programs listed below, visit goCOT.net/trashrecycling, email environmentalservices@ThorntonCO.gov or call 720-977-6200.

Fall Leaf Disposal Options Saturday, November 2, 8 a.m.-noon - Leaves may be dropped off in the compost bin at the Infrastructure Maintenance Center (IMC) 12450 Washington St. Be prepared to empty plastic bags on site. Proof of residency required. The compost bin may also be accessed for leaf disposal on weekdays from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

City trash customers may continue to place their bagged leaves at the curb on their regular trash pickup day through November 15. Fill the black trash containers first. Bags filled with trash or other debris will not be collected. Restrictions apply.

Thanksgiving Holiday Delay - City collection service will be on a one-day delay November 28 and 29. If your normal trash/recycle pickup day is Thursday, November 28, it will be collected on Friday, November 29. If your normal trash/recycle pickup day is Friday, November 29, it will be collected on Saturday, November 30.

No Cooking Oil - Thornton is no longer allowed to accept used cooking oil for drop-off. Please contact Veolia at 303-526-8155 for more information on how to properly dispose of cooking oil and other household hazardous waste.

Christmas and New Year Holiday Delays - Trash/Recycling collection service will be on a one day delay starting Wednesday, December 25. Collection service will also be on a one-day delay starting Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Special Christmas Wrap Collection - December 26-31 - Place flattened holiday boxes and bagged wrapping paper at the curb for collection on your trash day. Please use the black trash containers first.

Christmas Tree Curbside Pick Up - City trash/recycle customers may place their natural Christmas trees at the curb for collection on their regular trash collection day from December 30 - January 10. Please do not wrap the trees in plastic and remove all ornaments and lights.

Christmas Tree Recycle Drop Off - Saturday, January 11, 8 a.m.-noon, Thornton residents may bring their natural Christmas trees to the IMC, 12450 Washington St., for recycling. Proof of residency is required. Restrictions and limitations apply.



Brothers
 PLUMBING • HEATING • ELECTRIC
 presents

Thornton WinterFest

December 13 | 6:30-9 p.m.
December 14 | 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
December 15 | 5-9 p.m.

VISIT WITH SANTA • ICE SKATING • ENTERTAINMENT • 5K RUN/WALK
 FOOD VENDORS • HEATED BEER GARDEN • HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE
 ICE CARVING • HOLIDAY MOVIE • FIREWORKS • DRONE SHOW & MORE

CARPENTER PARK FIELDS | 108TH AVENUE & COLORADO BOULEVARD
GOCOT.NET/WINTERFEST | 303-255-7800










Thornton City Council

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



Ward 4

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



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

What's happening in Thornton?

Visit the new ThorntonCO.gov for meetings and events.

When it comes to water: it's time to get your home ready for winter

Stay warm and water-wise this winter, Thornton by winterizing your home's water systems, inside and out. Here are some tips:

Outdoors: Protect your perennial garden and trees by adding three inches of mulch to insulate plant roots but keep mulch a few inches away from tree bases to prevent decay. Wrap young tree trunks with commercial tree wrap up to the first branches to avoid frost damage. Remember, trees need water even in winter—water them at least once a month when temperatures are above 40 degrees to ensure they thrive.

Indoors: Your pipes can get much colder than your home, so insulate them with pipe insulation, heat tape, or heat cables, especially in unheated areas like crawl spaces or garages. When temperatures drop, keep water moving by dripping hot and cold water from faucets and opening cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to reach uninsulated pipes.

For more winterizing tips, visit ThorntonWater.com, call **720-977-6600**, or email water@thorntonwater.com.

Keeping our roads safe: Thornton's snow removal policy

The City of Thornton's snow removal team is dedicated to keeping roads safe for residents. Our work starts even before a storm hits, with crews monitoring conditions and preparing for plowing. When a storm leaves more than nine inches of snow, we bring in extra help to clear residential streets after main roads are safe. Thornton maintains over 1,300 miles of roads, including:

- Primary Streets (e.g., 120th Avenue, Colorado Boulevard)
- Secondary Streets (e.g., Eppinger Boulevard, Cottonwood Lakes Boulevard)
- Residential Streets

Plows work continuously on Primary Streets to keep them open, then move to Secondary Streets as conditions allow. When plows reach your neighborhood, they clear snow from the center of the street. This approach avoids requiring residents to move parked cars.

When it comes to sidewalks, residents must clear snow from the sidewalk in front of their house within 24 hours after a storm. If you see a sidewalk not shoveled, contact Thornton Code Enforcement at **303-538-7517**.

How You Can Help

- Shovel Early: Early shoveling prevents snow from packing into ice.
- Clear to Pavement: Shovel all the way to the pavement to stop ice from forming.

- Shovel Smart: Push snow instead of lifting it to reduce strain.
- Use Safe Deicers: Choose eco-friendly and pet-safe deicers to protect your lawn and storm sewers.
- Request Services: Submit snow removal requests through the MyThornton app.

To learn more about city snow and ice removal, visit goCOT.net/snow. For questions or concerns, contact Thornton Street Operations at **720-977-6464** or streetsdept@ThorntonCO.gov. Let's work together to keep our community safe this winter!



Community members, library staff, and Indigenous leaders gathered for a Ground Blessing ceremony to honor the land and celebrate the future Anythink Nature Library, located at 136th Avenue and Quebec Street. The event featured traditional water and air blessings, symbolizing a deep connection between the land, its history, and its future as a space for learning, wellness, and environmental stewardship. Construction is set to begin later this year, and residents can expect the library to open by mid-2026.



SANTA'S CALLING

Would your child enjoy a personal phone call from Santa before he comes to Thornton on Christmas Eve?

FREE! December 10-12 | 18 months-12 years old



Registration forms **MUST** be received by **Friday, November 29**.

For more info and times, please scan the QR Code or visit goCOT.net/festivals.



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-Hollinshed, 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.

