



September-October 2024

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Thornton celebrates grand opening of new Community Center and Anythink Library



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.

Ward 2 Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 6 p.m.
Active Adult Center
11181 Colorado Blvd.

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.

Excitement is building in Thornton as the city prepares for the grand opening of the new Community Center and Anythink Library this fall. Located at 2211 Eppinger Blvd., this facility promises to be a hub of activity and community engagement, offering something for everyone. Be among the first to explore this incredible new space at the Grand Opening Open House on Saturday, October 26, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Open House is your chance to see firsthand how this new facility will provide fun, activities and act as a central gathering place for the community. The event will feature self-guided tours, light refreshments, and the opportunity to sign up

for your new Thornton Community Center Pass. The new Community Center will offer several long-standing recreation programs, such as preschool, dance, Tae kwon do, and boxing, and amenities will include a walking track, weight room, cardio and circuit area, TRX, gymnasium, coffee corner, classroom, meeting room, multipurpose room, an outdoor amphitheater, and more. For more information about the grand opening and the new Thornton Community Center and Anythink Library, visit goCOT.net/tcc. We look forward to celebrating this exciting new chapter for Thornton!

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THORNTON
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Thornton CO 80229

Thornton residents, get ready for a significant step forward in securing our city's water future

A crucial 12-mile pipeline segment of the Thornton Water Project, (TWP), will bring this aspect of Thornton water service closer to reality. It will run within the Thornton city limits and will make up Segment A. This spring, Thornton entered into a contract for the segment construction. Phase I begins at the intersection of East 168th Avenue and Quebec Street, extending south along Quebec Street to East 120th Avenue. Phase II south to the Thornton Wes Brown Water Treatment Plant near East 88th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard.

Pipeline History

The TWP, a vital initiative to bring clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our community, is an ambitious project involving constructing a pipeline that will transport water purchased by Thornton back in the 1980s through Larimer, Weld, and Adams counties, ensuring we meet our growing water demands well beyond 2060.

The TWP spans over 70 miles with a 42-inch diameter pipeline, divided into six segments. Each segment is independently designed and constructed. Notably, Segment D, a seven-mile stretch in Windsor and Johnstown, was successfully completed in 2022.

Getting Segment A Underway

Construction for the Segment A section kicked off in the third quarter of this year and is expected to wrap up by the second quarter of 2026. Initially, two pipeline crews will commence work on Phase I near Quebec Street and E-470, installing the pipeline in opposite directions toward the project's northern and southern boundaries.

This development is a big step in ensuring Thornton's water security for decades to come. Visit thorntonwaterproject.com for detailed information and progress reports.

Thornton Police Chief to retire September 7

Thornton Chief of Police Terrence Gordon is retiring effective September 7, 2024. Chief Gordon made the announcement in July. He was sworn in as Chief of Police in 2020. Gordon came to Thornton after retiring from the Milwaukee Police Department.

"After nearly 30 years, I have decided to hang up the belt one last time and retire from the police profession. Since I started my career in the mid-90s to now, I hope people see that through the promotions, accomplishments, good times and bad,

I have always tried to be a good person first, which also made me a good professional," Gordon says. I would like to thank Thornton residents, the City Council, and my colleagues on the city staff for your friendship and support since I was sworn in in 2020. Most of all, I thank the members of the Thornton Police Department for your unwavering dedication to the mission of protection and service and the vision of making the City of Thornton a great place to live. It has definitely been a great place to work, and I will miss you all."

Chief Gordon says he is most proud of the accomplishments that have little to do with police work and nothing to do with awards or promotions, such as:

- Working and teaching for the past 25 years on issues of stress, resilience, and wellness.
- Established the first co-responder unit in the City of Thornton, pairing mental health practitioners with officers to respond to people in crisis and

frequent clients of crisis services.

- Along with organizational partners in the 17th Judicial District, recently formed a 501(c)(3) to fill a gap in juvenile and family services in Adams County, CO.
- Appointed by the governor and attorney general to a commission tasked with developing a curriculum for first responders when encountering people with disabilities.



Interim City Manager Brett Henry has appointed Deputy Chief Greg Reeves as interim Police Chief until a new City Manager is hired and makes a permanent appointment.

GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5

Are you ready?

The 2024 General Election is November 5, and voting ensures that your voice is heard. Every election is important, and your participation can make a significant impact on our community's future. If you haven't registered to vote yet, now is the perfect time to act. Registering to vote is simple and can be done online at govotecolorado.com, or in person at any Adams County Clerk and Recorder's office, any Colorado driver's license office, or Thornton City Clerk, 9500 Civic Center Dr. For more information about the upcoming election, visit adamscountycoelections.gov.

HEALTHY FARMERS MARKETS

Keep your fall bountiful and colorful

The annual Healthy Farmers Markets offer a colorful array of food, and address food insecurity in our community. The markets will be held through October 3, at the Carpenter Recreation Center on Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, and McAllister Park on Thursdays, from 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday markets offer fresh produce for purchase and vouchers \$25 for SNAP, WIC, Medicaid and senior recipients. The Thursday Markets distribute boxes of fresh produce, replacing the coupons normally given out. Community and health resources will be available both days. For more information, visit goCOT.net/hfm.



Ballot initiative

This November, Thornton voters will be asked to decide how vacancies that occur for city council member positions are filled in the city. On July 9, 2024, the Thornton City Council approved a ballot question to ask Thornton voters if they want to change the Thornton Charter which currently requires the mayor and city council members vote to appoint someone to fill a vacancy on council. The appointed individual then serves as council member for the remainder of the term of the seat that was vacated. The ballot question approved by City Council is to change the Charter so that a special election is held to fill the vacancy if more than one year remains in the term of the council member seat that was vacated. Should there be more than a year left in the term of the vacant council position, a special election would be held within 120 days of

the vacancy occurring, but not within 90 days of a regular Adams County election. If a vacancy occurs with one year or less left in the term for a council member position, the mayor and council would vote to appoint someone. The term of office for the newly-elected council member would be for the remainder of the vacated term.

If a vacancy occurs during a period of time when Thornton can participate in a coordinated election with Adams County, the estimated cost for the special election of a council member is estimated to be between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per Ward. Thornton's City Clerk has estimated that the cost of a special election to fill a vacancy at a time when there is no normally scheduled Adams County November election would be between \$51,000-\$65,000 per Ward per vacancy.

Caring for Thornton's future: Water sustainability made simple

Thornton is tackling the big issues of hot summers, drought, and a growing population to ensure our water stays abundant and accessible. Here's what we're doing to keep our community thriving:

State-of-the-art infrastructure: We're investing in top-tier systems to ensure our water delivery is efficient and reliable.

Smart landscaping for new developments: Our updated landscape codes mean new neighborhoods will use less water, helping to preserve our supply for the long haul.

Water-efficient commercial spaces: New businesses are designed with water efficiency in mind, reducing overall demand.

Advanced metering technology: Upgrading to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) helps you

detect and address leaks quickly, saving water and money.

Leak assistance: We're here to help you identify and fix leaks and high-water usage issues, making it easier to manage your water use.

Water-saving rebates and resources: Take advantage of our rebate programs and resources to save water and reduce your bills.

Landscape grants: Homeowners associations and businesses can apply for grants to make their green spaces more water efficient.

Learn more about what we're doing and how you can play your part at ThorntonWater.com, call **720-977-6600**, or email water@thorntonwater.com. Let's work together for a sustainable water future.

THORNTON WATER BILL ASSISTANCE Is available

The Thornton Water Assistance Program helps low-income individuals and families to pay their water bills. To find out if you qualify, and for information on how to apply visit goCOT.net/waterassistanceapp.

Rock the block at the Eastlake Street Fair

Join the city of Thornton and The Better Block Foundation for The Eastlake Street Fair on Saturday, September 7, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the corner of Lake Avenue and First Street. The Fair will be more than just fun and festivities—it's an opportunity to generate new ideas, and directly influence the future of this block. Enjoy live music, food and drinks, art installations, local vendor booths and activities.

Come and celebrate our community and share your ideas, as we work together to create a brighter future for Eastlake!

For more information, visit betterblock.org/eastlake.



Active Adult Center (AAC) celebrates National Senior Health & Fitness Day with uphill Challenge

In honor of National Senior Health and Fitness Day, 15 seniors hiked the Castle Rock Stair Climb with two Active Adult staff. "This 200-step challenge was an amazing way to celebrate and promote physical activity and overall fitness for active agers," says Recreation Coordinator Marisa Kouba. "The AAC and Trail Winds Active Adult Center (TWAAC) provide a multitude of opportunities for those 55+ to move, push comfort zones, try new things, and achieve new goals." Through training programs, the AAC helps to prepare participants to tackle challenges with excitement, dedication, and confidence. "Through lots of cheering you could hear the excitement when all 15 hikers completed the challenge and a few even did it twice," says Kouba. New opportunities to expand your horizons, skillsets and social groups exist daily at the AAC. Visit goCOT.net/aac for more information.



CITY OF THORNTON & TWISTED STEEL
FUEL & FURY CAR SHOW

THORNTON PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
TWISTED STEEL Denver, CO

On the Grass @ Carpenter Park Fields
Saturday, September 21
108th Avenue & Colorado Boulevard
Roll-In 12-2 p.m. | Show 2-7 p.m.
Pre-Entry \$15 or Day of Event \$20
Custom Trophies, Beer Garden, Food Vendors, Raffles, Live Band & More!

Please call 720-977-5922 for more information.

Your Thornton TRASH & RECYCLE CALENDAR

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

Labor Day - NO DELAY in collection service the week of September 2. Please place containers at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular pickup day.

Tree Branch/Compost Drop-Off - September 14, IMC, 12450 Washington St., 8 a.m. - noon, proof of residency required, restrictions apply

Electronic Recycling Drop-off Days - Techno Rescue, 3251 Lewiston St., Suite 10, Aurora. Weekdays September 16-October 4 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays, September 21 & 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fees apply. Proof of residency required. Online registration is available six weeks prior to event dates at goCOT.net/TrashRecycling.

Landfill Day - October 19, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Republic Services Tower Landfill, 19260 E. 88th Ave., Commerce City. One truck or carload only. Proof of residency is required and restrictions apply. Additional \$34 fee for mattresses and box springs.

Fall Leaf Disposal Options - Saturday, October 26, 8 a.m.-noon, weekdays, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Leaves may be dropped off in the compost bin at the Infrastructure Maintenance Center (IMC) 12450 Washington St. Be prepared to empty bags on site or use paper lawn and leaf sacks.

October 21 through November 15 - City trash/recycle customers only may place bagged leaves at the curb on their regular trash pickup day. Fill black trash containers first. Bags filled with trash or other debris will not be collected. Restrictions 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.

Inspirations From Japan: the new OZ Gallery art show and class

Step into a world where tradition meets innovation at Shirlee Akemi Miyake's captivating mixed media exhibition. Artist Shirlee Akemi Miyake, who specializes in mixed media, will display her work at Thornton's OZ Gallery, 9209 Dorothy Blvd., from October 8 to December 20. Born in Japan, Miyake brings her heritage to life through her art. "I developed my own techniques by using old Japanese newspapers that I dye, cut, stamp, and intertwine by incorporating origami and other handmade papers," says Miyake. "I finalize each art piece by adding details with acrylic paints, inks, etc." For more information, visit ArtsThornton.com or call 720-977-5880.



TRUNK OR TREAT
 A SPOOKTACULAR CITY OF THORNTON HALLOWEEN EVENT

October 19 • 6-9 p.m.
 Carpenter Park Fields Parking Plots
 108th Avenue & Colorado "Boolevard"
 \$5 per person | \$15 for a family of four*

*Everyone entering the event is subject to an admission fee.

TRICK OR TREAT • PHOTO OPPS • GARDEN OF THE GHOULS • BOO BAYOU

Brothers | Cane's | CREDIT UNION COLORADO | LIFETIME | RAMOS LAW | THORNTON PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

For more information or to become a trunk volunteer, visit goCOT.net/trunkortreat or call 720-977-5917.

Thornton City Council

goCOT.net/council

								
Mayor	Ward 1		Ward 2		Ward 3		Ward 4	
Jan Kulmann 303-538-7531 - City 720-201-6155 - Cell Jan.Kulmann@ThorntonCO.gov	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	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	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	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.

Thornton Active Adult Center gets seniors ready for Special Olympics PD Torch Run

The Active Adult Center (AAC) is all about community and bringing people together. For the second year, Thornton Active Adult Center developed an AAC team to participate in the Special Olympics PD Torch run. Eight seniors followed a training plan for six weeks with two weekly runs lead by Active Adult staff in preparation for this 5k race. One participant, Chris completed the race for the second time! This year was different as he completed the entire 5K and accomplished this less than one year post hip replacement surgery. "Through the encouragement of his team and the confidence he developed working alongside staff during the training program, Chris was able to accomplish something he wasn't sure

was possible," says Recreation Coordinator Marisa Kouba. The AAC strives to create opportunities like this for Thornton residents every day. This was a full community event, with T-shirts donated by Kaiser and printed in collaboration with the Mapleton Early Career Prep program, and all in support of the Thornton Police Department and Special Olympics.



Check out the Trail Winds Active Adult Center wing for Fun and Flamingling!

The Trail Winds Active Adult Center wing (TWAAC) is the place to be for a vibrant, engaging, and active lifestyle. TWAAC hosts a variety of programming including line dance, painting classes, cards and game groups, a book club, and Tai Chi. You can also take part in Holistic Wellness opportunities including acupuncture, massage, and reiki, as well as educational lectures and workshops. Among the most popular activities are the special events hosted by TWAAC; most recently a Summer Flamingling where attendees were treated to snacks, a live steel drum performance, and flamingo inspired games. Programs at TWAAC aren't just about having fun," says Recreation Coordinator Janice Koch. "They're about building relationships, staying active, and engaging

in a lively community." For more information about TWAAC programs and events, visit goCOT.net/twrc.



Active Adult workshop: Ending ageism together

Ageist language and stereotypes harm our financial security, health, cognition, and lifespan, as well as our communities and the economy. But what exactly is ageism? How does it manifest in our thoughts, interactions, and policies? And what can we do to combat it?

Join Erin Maruzzella, Executive Director of Innovations

in Aging Collaborative, an expert in age-friendly design and anti-ageism advocacy, for an engaging presentation at the Thornton Active Adult Center, 11181 Colorado Blvd., September 18, from 1-2:30 p.m. Erin, with an Executive MBA in Health Administration, serves as the Executive Director of Innovations in Aging Collaborative. To register, call **303-255-7850**.

New technology to improve taste of your water

If you've driven along 88th Avenue near Colorado Boulevard, you might have noticed something new in Thornton's East Gravel Lake. This summer, Thornton deployed ultrasonication units to tackle the frequent growth of cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, in our water reservoirs.



These algae can cause unpleasant odors and tastes in the water, especially when they bloom excessively. Cyanobacteria use gas vacuoles to float and sink, aiding their growth and photosynthesis. The new ultrasonication units disrupt this buoyancy, preventing the algae from growing and forming large blooms. This means fewer bad odors and tastes, leading to better water quality for residents.

The water quality team will monitor the effectiveness of these units and may consider using them in other reservoirs based on their performance.

LARKBRIDGE
DEVELOPED AND MANUFACTURED BY
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presents

THORNTON Harvest Fest

A Signature Event of the City of Thornton

Saturday, October 5 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Community Park

York Street and Thornton Parkway

Live Entertainment • Beer Garden • Food Vendors
Business & Craft Bazaar • Kids Amusements
Low-Cost Produce Fair • Retro Games
Kids Free Pumpkin Decorating and much more!

facebook.com/cotevents | goCOT.net/harvestfest
303-255-7800

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 Control720-977-5250
- 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 Connections720-977-5800
- 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 Repair720-977-6464
- Snow & Ice Control720-977-6464
- Trail Winds Recreation Center720-977-5700
- Trash & Recycling720-977-6200
- Utilities (Water, Sewer)720-977-6500
- Utility Billing 303-538-7370
- Volunteer Hotline720-977-5760
- Voter Registration 303-538-7230
- Water Quality 303-255-7770

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A special THANKS to all city Departments and Divisions for their contribution to the Thornton City Voice newspaper.

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