

LittletonReport

February/March 2024

© Copyright 2024 City of Littleton all rights reserved

What's Inside

All meetings, programs, and events listed in this issue are subject to change or cancellation.







Opening Doors: The State of Littleton's Housing

Improving housing opportunities is a top priority for the City of Littleton. Littleton's livability depends on its residents finding suitable and economical housing options at all stages of life to remain in the community they love. The city has made great strides over the last five years to engage the community, adopt a vision, set goals for future decades, and update its Unified Land Use Code (ULUC).

Data and feedback repeatedly affirm Littleton's appeal among current and aspiring residents. Balancing attributes such as greenspace, neighborhoods, quality schools, history, and a thriving downtown within land-locked borders and increased population, is an ongoing challenge in Littleton.

For a small suburban city, Littleton continues to surprise with its diversity of housing stock and embraces future housing needs. Littleton's single-family residential housing, frequently associated with suburbs, makes up only half of the housing options for its residents. Littleton has varied housing that's more structurally diverse than one might expect.

Littleton has one of the newest Inclusionary Housing Ordinances (IHO) in the region. The IHO creates opportunities

for housing that is affordable to renters making 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The IHO also creates opportunities to add for-sale housing with incentives for those making 80% AMI or less. This reduces the housing cost burden for families so that no more than 30% of their annual gross income goes toward rent or housing payments.

The housing development process, or pipeline, includes a time lag that can be months, or years long. Littleton's current housing supply is still rebounding because of these delays, and many other factors outside the city's control. Challenges and uncertainty in funding, construction, and the overall economy can mean delays in breaking ground on approved projects or projects falling apart completely.

Littleton's vision as defined in Envision 2040 is that, "residents can find suitable and economical housing options at all stages of life to remain in the community they love." To continue this effort amid the complexity of the housing pipeline, Littleton embraces a multi-faceted approach which combines ongoing engagement, assessing and refining metrics, and beginning the process to revisit the city's long-range strategic plan.



Littleton's housing development pipeline has:

- 3,000+ units in process
- 99% of the units in the development pipeline are attached units
- 250-400 units will be "affordable" under the city's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

City offices will be closed Monday, February 19 for the Presidents' Day Holiday

Littleton Linkages Trail Study Identifies Future Opportunities

Littleton's trail network is robust in its reach, with most residential areas within easy walking or biking distance from a regional trail such as the High Line Canal Trail or the Mary Carter Greenway Trail. But accessing those major trails and other destinations in the city by foot can be a challenge - there is a need for more and better

local connections, and enhanced bicycle and pedestrian crossings.

The Littleton Linkages Trail Study was conducted to identify, assess and plan for filling local gaps in the trail network. Through a comprehensive effort of community engagement, technical analysis, and concept development, a set of 68 local trail improvement concepts was ultimately identified throughout Littleton - these will make it safer and more comfortable to bike and walk to schools and parks, to access regional trails for recreation and commuting, and to simply go for walks.

The evaluation results and concept scoring demonstrate the relative benefit each one will bring to the community, but there are numerous other factors to

and construction.

consider in determining implementation timelines. Key next steps in bringing this study's recommendations to fruition include furthering design, matching concepts with funding sources, and pur-

To read the final Littleton Linkages report and provide feedback, search "Littleton Linkages Trail Study" at LittletonCO.gov.







PRSRT STD U.S. Postage Paid Littleton, CO Permit No. 205





Neighbors Gather, Improve Community with Help from City Grants

Neighborhoods across Littleton came together in 2023 to host block parties, clean up litter, and run community improvement projects, all fueled by city grants.

More than 50 neighborhood events received funding from the Neighborhood Grant Program in 2023, helping neighbors get to know each other through block parties, National Night Out events, and community clean-up days.

Six Community Improvement Grants were awarded, funding neighborhood-initiated projects like replacing deteriorating fences and retaining walls, and several projects to convert thirsty turf areas to water-wise native greenery.

Littleton's Community and Neighborhood Grant program offers \$500 grants for neighborhood gatherings and events, and grants of up to \$9,999 for community improvement projects. The program has an annual combined budget of \$50,000. Applications for 2024 opened in January.

For more information, search "Local Grants & Incentives" at LittletonCO.gov.

South Metro Community Foundation Works to Improve Outcomes for Foster Youth

The South Metro Community Foundation (SMCF), a community-supported 501(c)3 nonprofit, is raising funds to help provide navigators for foster care youth at least a year before they leave the foster care system at age 18.

Currently, outcomes for these vulnerable youth are distressing:

- Many become almost immediately homeless
- They have lower high school graduation rates
- They experience higher rates of drug and alcohol abuse
- They are more likely to encounter the criminal justice system
- They have higher suicide rates

South Metro Community Foundation's navigators, hired through a partnership with Advocates for Children/CASA of Arapahoe County, will help these young people apply for housing vouchers, obtain job training or education, and develop life skills. Approximately 450 foster youth age out of foster care each year in Arapahoe County.

With a grant from the City of Littleton's Local Partnership Funding program, SMCF will hold a free forum in 2024 where residents can learn more. Visit SMCFinfo.org to make a tax-exempt donation to help foster youth, and for more information about the forum.

Littleton Receives High Marks in National Rankings

Littleton continues to rack up accolades in national rankings and recognition. Littleton was ranked in the 95th percentile out of more than 1,300 cities in WalletHub's Small Cities in America," drawing high points for quality of life.

WorldAtlas.com named Littleton among "Colorado's 9 Most Favorite Small Towns," noting "nothing compares to downtown Littleton."



A Redfin blog post titled "What is Littleton, CO Known For? 5 Things to Love About This City" listed Hudson Gardens, Western Welcome Week, the arts scene, bike trails, and local breweries.

The awards come on the heels of a long list of accolades for Littleton, including being named one of Colorado's best mid-range and small cities by Moving-FromTo.com, among the "2022 Top 100 Best Places to Live" by Livability.com, the "Best Places to Live in Colorado for Families" by Citytistics, and a recipient of the "Tree City USA Growth Award" from the Arbor Day Foundation. The Audi Denver Littleton Twilight Criterium took home the "Best Event Award in the 2023 Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence," presented by Downtown Colorado, Inc.

Celebrate Arbor Day with Spring Tree Program

The City of Littleton is celebrating Arbor Day by continuing its annual tree-planting program with 24 tree species available this year! Trees provide clean air, access to clear water, shade, summer cooling, wildlife habitat, beauty, and more. The goal of this program is to increase the canopy density and diversity of the urban forest.

Order deadline: Monday, March 25

Pick-up: Saturday, April 20 at 1800 West Belleview Avenue

Cost: \$50 per tree

Limit: no more than three trees per household

The City of Littleton provides a secure, online tree order form. All ordering must be done online this year. Trees are available on a first come, first served basis.

On Saturday, April 20, city staff will distribute 210 trees to participating residents. Participants should arrange to pick up trees between 8 a.m. and noon. Those unable to pick up can select delivery help when ordering. All deliveries will happen on Friday, April 19. All purchased trees must be planted within the Littleton city limits.

For those physically unable to plant, contact Mary Danser at 303-795-3827 no later than March 25 to arrange for volunteer planting.

Search "Spring Tree Program" at LittletonCO.gov for ordering, payment, additional photos, planting instructions, tree care requirements, and more!





Littleton

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

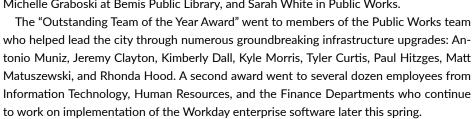
City Employee Excellence Recognized

City of Littleton staff had lots to celebrate this winter during City Manager Jim Becklenberg's Employee Recognition Awards.

The awards celebrated the accomplishments of City of Littleton staff who went above and beyond the call of duty to achieve big things for the community. Out of 66 nominees, awards were granted in categories including "Innovation," "Collaboration," "Living By Our Values," and "Keeping Us Safe."

The "Outstanding Employee of the Year Award" was a three-way tie betw Dylan Malewska at the Littleton Museum,

Michelle Graboski at Bemis Public Library, and Sarah White in Public Works.



The "Collaboration Award" went to Tyler Barton, Carla Max, Julie Rotter, Craig Osenbaugh, and Kyle Robbins. This cross-departmental team implemented new digital signage throughout the 60,000 square-foot Littleton Center.

The "Innovation Award" for an individual went to Adrienne Burton for her leadership on Project Downtown. The team award went to Mike Gent, Matt Knight, Zareen Tasneem, Julie Latham, Aimee Saenz, Will Brawn, and Atasi Titlow for their work on the Design the Future process.

The "Living by our Values" award went to Cristin Russell and Maureen Raddell.

The "Keeping Us Safe Award" went to the Public Works Utilities team of Art Duran, Deric Romero, Ben Flierl, Karl Mielke, Al Brimage, Steven Scarbrough, Jacob Tolley, and

City of Littleton employees are a proud, dedicated team who work hard to support and improve the community they love.



City of Littleton Conducting DEI Assessment

City of Littleton personnel are working on a citywide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) assessment to help evaluate how the city's policies, procedures, and culture stack up with best practices in the workplace.

The assessment will help achieve the goal of attracting and retaining the most talented individuals available, regardless of background, ethnicity, or any other consideration.

"DEI needs to be a fundamental element of our organizational culture and I am committed to supporting this important work throughout the assessment process and beyond," said City Manager Jim Becklenberg. "It is important that we continue to look at our internal policies and practices to ensure we provide flexibility, are accessible, and welcoming to all the constituents we serve."

The City of Littleton partnered with Groundswell Change to conduct the assessment.

New Assisted Listening Systems Available for Public Meetings

Visitors to Littleton's city council chamber can now access a state-of-the-art assisted listening system, allowing those with hearing impairments to hear audio amplified more clearly. Guests can download



a mobile app called "Listen Everywhere" that connects to personal headphones, or borrow a radio receiver from the city clerk, which can connect to personal headphones or telecoil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants. Borrowed devices must be returned at the end of meetings.

The new system builds on the city's priority of ensuring accessibility of public meetings. All elected and appointed boards or commissions that hold public meetings in the council chamber are also close-captioned on Channel 8 and in live streams. This includes City Council, Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Board, Licensing Authority, Board of Adjustment, and Building Board of Appeals meetings.

For more information about assisted listening devices, contact the City Clerk's office at colcityclerk@littletongov. org or by calling 303-795-3780.



Documentary Screening Rescheduled for April 27

Join Littleton City Council Member Gretchen Rydin for a screening of *The Abortion Talks*, a documentary about leaders in the pro-choice and pro-life movements bridging the chasm of ideology to find common ground to prevent violence and promote civility.

Originally scheduled for January 13, the screening has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 27. Following the screening, Rydin will host an interactive workshop on how to talk about difficult and contentious issues with loved ones, colleagues, and neighbors.

When: 2 to 4:15 p.m., Saturday, April 27 Where: Bemis Public Library, 6014 South Datura Street

To RSVP, email grydin@littletongov.org or call 720-507-5401.

Local Councils Track Progress on Homelessness

The Tri-Cities Homelessness Initiative is a collaborative effort between partners in Littleton, Englewood, and Sheridan to address homelessness. The three city councils met on December 13 to discuss the Initiative's progress.

The Point-In-Time Count, conducted by the Metro Denver Housing Initiative in January 2023, found 159 unhoused individuals in the three cities. Currently, the Tri-Cities Homelessness Initiative anticipates a projected 125 housing placements through programs such as Bridge House Ready to Work, the forthcoming Navigation Center, CrossPurpose

Career School, and other partner agencies.

The councils also discussed TriCitiesHomeless. com, a website established in 2023 to serve as a single source of information on the progress of the Initiative's Action Plan, volunteer opportunities, and sources of assistance for those in need.



Residents are invited to a community meeting hosted by At Large Council Member Pam Grove and District IV Council Member Andrea Peters. The meeting will review information on current city projects and include time for open dialogue.

The meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room at Bemis Public Library at 6014 South Datura Street. Donuts will be served.

When: 10 to 11:15 a.m., Saturday, April 6
Where: Bemis Public Library at 6014 South Datura Street.

There is no need to RSVP. For questions, please contact Council Member Grove at pgrove@littletongov.org or Council Member Peters at apeters@littletongov.org.



2024 Budget to Enhance Service Levels to Help Meet Community Needs

Building on a healthy city budget thanks to years of fiscally conservative policies and voter support, the City of Littleton will increase staff in 2024 to better meet community needs.

The \$144 million budget, approved in the fall of 2023 by city council, includes funding for an additional 29.65 full time-equivalent positions driven by resident feedback.

Of the new positions, 10 will be in the Littleton Police Department (LPD), in response to resident and business surveys showing a high emphasis on public safety. LPD will hire seven additional officers, one detective, and two dispatchers.

The additional officers will bolster proactive policing efforts, including the Special Enforcement Team, which focuses on crime trends and issues such as homelessness, and patrol officers to engage more meaningfully with neighborhoods.

Increased funding for LPD will also support the co-responder program with AllHealth Network, which pairs mental health clinicians with officers to respond to calls involving mental health crises or substance abuse. A crisis case manager and additional full-time co-responder will be added.



Other staffing increases will support the Environmental Stewardship Program, including a sustainability coordinator to explore new sustainability efforts such as resource conservation and water resources management. An additional forestry technician will help establish plant health care to protect the city's existing tree canopy.

The review time for development projects and building permit applications will be reduced by additional staff in Community Development, while city nuisance code compliance concerns will be addressed by an additional code compliance officer.

Other funding in the 2024 budget will support city goals like helping Geneva Village residents transition to new housing, increasing Neighborhood Partnership Grant opportunities; and strategic planning for environmental stewardship, housing policy, economic analysis, and other programs.

Read the full 2024 budget by searching "City Budgets and Financial Reports" at LittletonCO.gov.

Littleton Meetings Reduce Paper Waste

As part of efforts to be efficient with taxpayer funds and reduce environmental impact, paper copies of full agenda items will no longer be provided at Littleton City Council meetings or board and commission meetings.

Paper copies of agendas will still be provided. Full board packets with all agenda items are available online at Littleton-CO.gov. Attendees wishing to receive paper copies of agenda items can contact the City Clerk's office before a meeting at colcityclerk@littletongov.org or by calling 303-795-3780.

Littleton City Council



Kyle Schlachter MAYOR kschlachter@littletongov.org 720-773-0401



Stephen Barr
DISTRICT III, MAYOR PRO TEM
sbarr@littletongov.org
720-443-0465



Patrick Driscoll
DISTRICT I
pdriscoll@littletongov.org
303-668-7877



Pam Grove AT LARGE pgrove@littletongov.org 303-263-1152



Andrea Peters
DISTRICT IV
apeters@littletongov.org
720-935-1958



Robert Reichardt
DISTRICT II
rreichardt@littletongov.org
720-819-5431



Gretchen Rydin AT LARGE grydin@littletongov.org 720-507-5401



New Affordable Senior Housing at Overlook at Powers Park

Littleton has 51 new units of affordable senior housing after the opening of the Overlook at Powers Park, a new apartment complex in northeast Littleton developed by South Metro Housing Options (SMHO).

The complex is open to residents 62 or older, making 30 to 60% of the area median income. The property utilizes Low Income Housing Tax Credits and accepts Housing Choice Vouchers. Vacancies are filled through a waitlist process.

Amenities include in-unit laundry, walk-in shower, large windows, stainless steel appli-

ances, indoor and outdoor community spaces, elevators, secure entrances, and covered parking. Resident Services provides support and organizes resident events.

The complex is SMHO's first newly-built development in 30 years, since the opening of Libby Bortz Assisted Living in 1994.

With housing prices high and demand even higher, the complex is an important step toward filling the affordability gap for local seniors.

Visit SMHO.co for more information.



RIGHT ELEVATION - BUILDING TYPE A

Rezoning Approved for Mixed-Use Development in South Littleton

A sprawling former office park in south Littleton was rezoned by the Littleton City Council in a unanimous vote December 19 to make way for a development that will bring new housing and retail to the site.

The 63 acres at 700 West Mineral Avenue were most recently occupied by Lumen Technologies, which vacated its offices in the face of changing workforce trends. A master plan for the site calls for a warehouse retail store and possibly other retailers on the north end of the site, while the southern 18 acres would see up to 380 multifamily housing units, including 19 affordable housing units in compliance with Littleton's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance.

City council touted the project as fitting with the goals of Littleton's 2019 Comprehensive Plan, which calls for increased housing stock to provide housing options for Littleton's workforce for decades to come.

An economic impact analysis for the development anticipates a net annual fiscal impact of \$2.8 million to \$3.6 million in tax revenue for Littleton.



Arapahoe County Water Study Seeks Feedback

Arapahoe County is seeking community feedback on a year-long water supply study in 2024.

The study aims to help the county and its municipalities, including Littleton, plan for current and future water needs. The study will guide future land use decisions and help planners balance limited water supplies against the growing needs of industry and residents through 2050. It will also recommend ways the county can use water more efficiently.

An advisory committee from water districts and municipal planning staff is guiding the study with the help of a consultant team from Forsgren Associates, Inc., LRE Water, and Michael Baker International.

Visit the project page to take a survey, review a summary of work done so far, and learn about public engagement opportunities. Learn more and get involved at ArapahoeCO.gov/WaterStudy.

New Developments Planned at Columbine Square, O'Toole's Sites

The former O'Toole's Garden Center and Columbine Square shopping center sites in northwest Littleton could become home to new retail and housing units under a pair of master development plans.

The former site of O'Toole's Garden Center at 5201 South Federal Boulevard could be redeveloped into senior housing, under the proposed name of Gallery, beginning as early as summer 2024, under plans approved by the city's Planning Commission in December.

Gallery Development received approval to build 180 units of housing for residents 55 and older on the roughly five-acre site, including nine "affordable" units as prescribed by Littleton's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO). The development would consist of a four-story building and include two courtyards.

In addition to a swimming pool, courtyard plans call for shade structures, a water feature, outdoor kitchen, native landscaping, picnic tables and a community garden.

Next door at the former Columbine Square site at Belleview Avenue and Federal Boulevard, the Quarterra company is in the final stages of seeking approval for a development that would build between 360 and 380 housing units, as well as 6,700 square-feet of commercial space. Quarterra also plans to satisfy Littleton's IHO by offering affordable units, though final unit totals had not been calculated at press time.

Both developments would require further neighborhood meetings to ensure the proposals are in compliance with approved site plans.

The new housing stock will help meet Littleton's goal of easing housing shortages and ensuring the city provides a wide variety of high-quality housing options for generations to come.



Reach Out with SeeClickFix, Report Neighborhood Traffic Issues

Residents can connect with the City of Littleton via SeeClickFix to ask questions and report issues.

SeeClickFix can be used to contact city departments with questions on topics like sales taxes, economic development, and other inquiries.

Residents can also report non-emergency issues or concerns with SeeClickFix 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Submit issues such as potholes, icy or damaged sidewalk, graffiti, missing or damaged street signs, traffic light outages, abandoned vehicles, weeds or trash, and other code violation concerns.

Search "SeeClickFix" at LittletonCO.gov.

Also, Littleton's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program provides a streamlined and transparent way for citizens to report neighborhood traffic safety issues and work with staff to address them. If there is a concern about neighborhood traffic safety, or an idea on how to improve neighborhood transportation, submit an online request. Staff will evaluate the request and determine what action is necessary or may reach out to gather additional details. Search "Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program" at LittletonCO.gov. Stay tuned for information about a pedestrian/bicycle community forum after the first of the year.







Project Downtown Moving Forward

Project Downtown, a collaborative effort to plan the future of Downtown Littleton, wrapped up its first round of public outreach last fall. After connecting with more than 900 community members, city planners prepared a summary of feedback, available at LittletonCO.gov.

A look at some of the highlights:

- Mobility and connectivity: Strong support for better bike connections and improved pedestrian mobility, and interest in improved signage and traffic calming. Mixed feedback about parking, with varied support for both free and paid parking.
- Safety and accessibility: Support for increased lighting, more consistent and accessible paving, and more frequent pedestrian crossings.
- Sustainability and resiliency: Strong support for more trees and holistic management of tree canopy, desire to integrate water-wise landscaping, and support for bike parking to encourage sustainable modes of transportation.
- Placemaking and activation: Excitement around creating an iconic destination downtown, desire to connect to and enhance Little's Creek, strong support for making downtown more pedestrian-focused.

Project Downtown will kick off the next phase of community engagement this spring, with multiple virtual and in-person events to review concept alternatives. The project team will also promote a second and final community feedback survey. The project is on track for city council consideration this summer.

For more information, search "Project Downtown" at LittletonCO.gov.

Public Works to Make Progress on Road Improvements in 2024

Littleton's Public Works department will be doing BIG Things in 2024, improving Littleton's roads and streets with projects fueled by voter-approved funding.

This spring, the Streets Division will commence a four-month effort to repair wide cracks in pavement citywide, including the TrailMark



subdivision. While traditional crack seal material is not designed for cracks more than 1.5 inches in width, the wide cracks project uses specialized materials for larger gaps. The project will begin at Broadway and Littleton Boulevard, head toward Mineral Avenue, then shift to residential streets.

Mill and overlay projects will also move ahead in the Centennial Acres and Aberdeen Village neighborhoods, providing smooth new road surfaces.

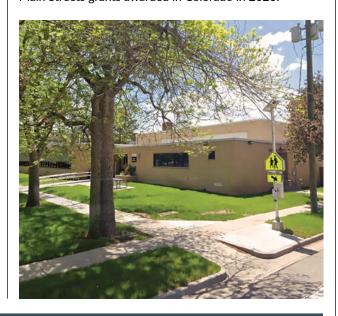
Stay up-to-date on Public Works projects at BigThingsLittleton.com.

CDOT Grant to Improve Pedestrian Safety Near ACC

Downtown Littleton will see improved pedestrian safety thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The Revitalizing Main Streets grant will fund upgraded bike lanes and ADA-compliant curb ramps along Church Avenue, providing a safe and accessible link between the Littleton Downtown RTD station and Arapahoe Community College, as well as common destinations for students of the Colorado Center for the Blind.

The grant was one of more than two dozen Revitalizing Main Streets grants awarded in Colorado in 2023.



Retail Sector Analysis Shows Potential for Growth

An analysis of Littleton's retail and mixed-use commercial sectors found the city lags behind neighboring cities but has significant opportunities for improvement.

The Retail and Mixed-Use Analysis, conducted in October as part of Littleton's first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process since 2015, found Littleton's retail market is capturing about half of the total retail expenditure potential from residents.

The greatest source of "leakage" – residents traveling outside the city to shop – comes from the general merchandise category, with residents forced to go elsewhere for items like furniture, electronics and sporting goods.

Still, Littleton's retail market has strong suits: the city's top 40 sales tax producers have been consistent for years and were largely insulated from macroeconomic shocks like the pandemic.

The study found that some areas of the city outperform others in terms of retail success, and recommended the city should focus on redeveloping or reinvesting in underperforming areas.

The study also found mixed-use developments have seen significant success elsewhere in the Denver metro area, and showed Littleton's commercial corridors have significant potential for mixed-use redevelopment.

The study recommended Littleton's Economic Development team share these findings with property owners and potential investors and prepare site-selection campaigns to attract business segments that are currently lost to other nearby cities.

The analysis will be incorporated into the broader Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which is anticipated for presentation to city council this spring.

Great Outdoors Colorado Grants Support Littleton Parks

Nearly \$1 million of grant funding from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) will support two projects in Littleton. GOCO, which is funded by lottery sales, awarded \$950,000 to the City of Littleton in December to support a project to transform Reynolds Landing Park on the South Platte River into a community asset. The city plans to incorporate low flow pools and other wave features, separate cyclists from pedestrians, and improve accessibility.

The park will serve diverse user groups, enhance regional trail access, improve river health, and create unique outdoor experiences that will contribute to the community's quality of life. This project is a collaboration between Mile High Flood Control District, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, Arapahoe County Open Space, Colorado Water Conservation Board, South Platte Working Group, and a local private donor.

A grant for \$17,200 went to South Suburban Parks and Recreation, which will partner with a Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) crew to repair a mile of damaged trails and improve three access points at South Platte Park.

The park has four miles of walking trails, mostly on clay-loam soil surfaces without much slope or drainage. As a result, they have become muddy routes that cause visitors to go off-trail. MHYC will fill trenched, low, or soft trails with crushed granite and create wider, firm surfaces that better drain water and are more sustainable as trail use continues to grow. MHYC will also build stairs and drainage features on points approaching the river to reduce the creation of user-made social trails.

The grants are part of a total package of \$4.3 million in grant funding to projects to improve access to the outdoors across Colorado.







LITTLETON MUSEUM

The Littleton Museum is one of Littleton's premier cultural destinations. The museum features two authentic living history farm sites, with costumed interpreters portraying life in early Littleton. The museum building includes a permanent exhibit focusing on Littleton history, and two rotating galleries.

The museum is at 6028 South Gallup Street. There is no charge for admission, but donations are accepted. Find out more at LittletonMuseum.org.

FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS:

Opening Reception for "Portraits of Dementia" Thursday, February 8 | 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Come and celebrate the opening of this moving exhibit. No RSVP required. Exhibit dates: February 9 to April 28

Lecture by Dr. Tom Noel: "Colorado Mining"

Wednesday, March 13 | Doors open at 5:30 p.m., lecture from 6 to 7 p.m.

Professor Tom Noel's talk, Colorado Mining, will explore Mark Twain's definition of a mine as "a hole in the ground owned by a liar."

No fee. Seating is limited. RSVP by calling the museum at 303-734-8371 or online at LittletonMuseum.org.

Draft Animal Day

Saturday, March 23 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

See the power of mules and oxen at work! These animals were vital to survival on 19th century farms.

Fun for all ages. No fee. No RSVP required.

Knight House Designated Newest Historical Landmark



A home dating to the 1890s that once housed a community bookstore and offices for the *Littleton Independent* newspaper is Littleton's newest historical landmark.

The Knight House at 5870 South Curtice Street is rep-

resentative of Littleton's early residential character, according to an application by the home's current residents. The home is also notable as the site of the BookHouse bookstore, run in the 1970s and 1980s by Sonya Ellingboe, a longtime community activist and champion of the arts who only recently retired as Colorado Community Media's arts and culture reporter at age 93. Ellingboe provided office space for the *Littleton Independent* newspaper in the home during the 1980s.

Ellingboe's community activism includes advocacy for historic preservation and green space, and service on numerous local boards.

"Her wide range of activities for the benefit of Littleton have greatly shaped the built environment in the city," the home's historic landmark designation says.

The house was originally home to the Knight family. Harold Knight was a volunteer fire-fighter in early Littleton, worked for the Northern Irrigation Company, and was a caretaker of the Littleton Cemetery.

The home joins more than two dozen other Littleton Landmark properties, which are afforded protections to ensure long-term preservation.

Littleton's historic preservation efforts include numerous historic districts, state and federal landmarks, and the Littleton Legacy List, which includes homes which meet historical landmark criteria but have not been officially designated. To learn more, search "Historic Preservation" at LittletonCO.gov.



2024 SPRING CATALOG AND SUMMER CAMPS

The South Suburban Spring 2024 Catalog is now online, and the printed version will hit mailboxes in early February. Summer camp registration opens February 1 for daily licensed camps, and single-day registration begins February 20. Registration for all other specialty camps opens February 8. View and register for all spring programs at register.ssprd.org.

RECREATION CENTER SPRING SALE

Save big at recreation centers this spring! Level up fitness routines with admission punch discounts and improve skills with personal training or Pilates Reformer sessions. Deals can be purchased at register.ssprd.org or at recreation centers from March 11 to 24.

Spring Sale Deals:

Buy a 20-pack of admission punches, get 5 free.

Buy a 10-pack of 1-hour Personal Training, Group Training or Private Reformer packages, get 1 free.

COLORADO JOURNEY TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Colorado Journey Miniature Golf is closed through April as the course undergoes renovations.

ART ON LOAN 2024: CALL FOR ARTISTS

Attention artists! Bring art to community spaces with South Suburban's Art on Loan program. Local artists are invited to apply for the 2024 program by March 11.

Selected sculptures will be displayed at Goodson Recreation Center or Hudson Gardens for a year, and artists will receive a \$500 honorarium for their display. The sculptures are selected by the Public Art Committee through a competitive process and approved by the South Suburban Board of Directors. Visit ssprd.org/Public-Art to learn more and view the application.

SOUTH SUBURBAN RACE SERIES

To learn more and register for races, visit ssprd.org/raceseries.

Super Sunday Fun Run 5K Reynolds Landing Park Sunday, February 11

Bring the entire family to run or walk before the big game and enjoy a post-race party at Breckenridge Brewery Farmhouse with \$1 off all beers. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome for this event along the Mary Carter Greenway. Show team spirit and wear favorite team jerseys or attire.

2024 South Suburban Budget Focuses on Community Priorities

The South Suburban Board of Directors adopted the 2024 budget at its November 8 meeting

The 2024 budget aligns with South Suburban's guiding principles and goals outlined in the 2022 Master and Strategic plans. A primary focus is to expand relationships and collaborative efforts with municipal partners. The 2024 budget allocates more than \$30 million for capital improvements, of which 30% is covered by grants and partnerships.

Community input played a critical role in identifying priorities for the \$117 million budget. For example, a strong community desire to focus on local parks has been addressed with plans to renovate Milliken, Powers, and Puma parks, in addition to Reynolds Landing in Littleton. Concerns about safety at Jackass Hill will be mitigated through renovations that emphasize design improvements and accessibility for residents. The budget also includes maintenance and costs for the new Littleton Golf and Tennis facility.

South Suburban is committed to improving service levels at parks and trails. More

than \$15 million is designated for the maintenance of local and regional parks and trails throughout the district, including Bear Creek Trail (Sheridan), Ketring/Gallup Park (Littleton), Sweetwater Park (Lone Tree), and Cherry Knolls Park (Centennial). This commitment is bolstered by budget allocations for eight new full-time positions.

Fiscal responsibility continues to be a cornerstone for South Suburban, as evidenced by the district receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 14 consecutive years and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting 21 times. The full budget is available at ssprd.org.





BEYOND BOOKS EVENTS AT BEMIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bemis Public Library | 6014S. Datura Street | Littleton, CO 80120 | 303-795-3961 | BemisLibrary.org



GENERAL PROGRAMS



Volunteer Opportunity

Are you comfortable using technology? Do you enjoy teaching others? Bemis Public Library is seeking volunteers to help patrons use smartphones, computers, and other basic devices. In as little as two hours a week, you can meet new people, develop useful skills, and make a significant contribution to the community. Visit BemisLibrary.org or call 303-795-3961 for more information.



Consumer Reports

A Bemis Public Library card now provides free access to ConsumerReports.org. Find reliable ratings and reviews for thousands of products to make the most of your time and money. Access money-saving advice and tips, buying guides, videos, and more.

Doorstep Delivery

Bemis Public Library delivers books, audiobooks, movies, and other materials to residents of Littleton who are unable to visit the library. To apply for



this service, email BemisDelivers@Littletongov.org.

Daniel Martinez Senior Storyteller

February 6, 1-2 p.m. | For Ages 50 and Up

Life Savors Senior Storytelling Group is about savoring and sharing snippets of one's life experience. It's about finding commonality as well as giving others a glimpse of an individual's unique experience. The February theme of "crush" is an opportunity to share an interesting experience, not necessarily a typical romantic encounter.

Art Workshop with the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art*

February 17, 2-3:30 p.m. | For Ages 18 and Up

Join BMoCA Educator Reid Portscheller for a handson workshop about BMoCA's current exhibit, and create a piece of art inspired by the show.



Active Minds: Frederick Douglass February 26, 2-3 p.m.

Explore the remarkable life of the eloquent writer, orator. and leader of the abolitionist movement.



Live Painting with Ellen Moershel

March 7, 5:30-7 p.m. | For Adults of All Ages

Meet guest artist Ellen Moershel as she demonstrates her process. Ellen's work is on display at Bemis Library through March 2024, in partnership with the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own creative projects, or to enjoy coloring pages of Ellen's artwork.

Active Minds: Women of Denver History March 25, 2-3 p.m.

This presentation will cover some familiar names as well as some lesser known figures

as they trace the impact of historic women of Denver and their contributions to the city and the state.



TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Advisory Group

February 14, 5-6:30 p.m. March 13, 5-6:30 p.m. For Grades 6-12

Help plan programs, choose new books and games, make friends, and have fun while earning community service credit. Participants are invited to exclusive programs like Laser Tag and holiday events. Snacks will be served.

Teen Takeover: Spa or Slime*

February 21, 5-6:30 p.m.

For Grades 6-12

Soothe or ooze with mixture-making crafts! Follow the recipes to take home several gift-sized

Teen Takeover: Supermassive Box Fort*

March 20, 5-6:30 p.m.

For Grades 6-12

Work as a team to design, build, and decorate an enormous cardboard structure with Makedo tools.



LIRC PROGRAMS

International Conversation Circle

Every Thursday 11:15-12:30 p.m.

Meet people from other countries, practice English, or help others practice English in a social atmosphere.





CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Lovebug Drop-in Craft

Saturday, February 3, 1-2:30 p.m. For Families with Children of All Ages

Drop into the Cloud Forest to create a pompom lovebug.

Construction Challenge: The Floor is Lava!*

Saturday, February 17

11-11:30 a.m., 1-1:30 p.m., or 3-3:30 p.m.

For Ages 4 - Grade 5

Play with jumbo wooden blocks to build bridges and other structures with a small group. Strategy, cooperation, and creativity are needed since the floor is lava and participants can only step on the blocks and boards as they build.

Cover-to-Cover Spring Reading Program*

March 2-April 13 For Children Ages 4-12

Read five books and earn a free hamburger or cheeseburger

compliments of In-N-Out Burgers. Pick up a registration card at the Children's Desk.



Old Town Puppet Company

Wednesday, March 27, 3-3:45 p.m. For families with children of all ages

Puppets, songs, fairy tales, and lots of humor combine for a fun-filled performance by Mike Walsh and friends.







WEEKLY STORYTIMES

Baby Storytime

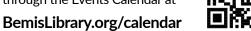
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. **Toddler Storytime** Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

All-Ages Storytime Wednesdays at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Visit BemisLibrary.org for more information about everything happening at the library including book clubs, storytimes, technology classes, and more.

* Registration required. Call 303-795-3961 or sign up through the Events Calendar at









COMMUNITY BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Spell Books

Find something spellbinding at Spell Books, a new bookstore on Main Street. The little shop offers a big selection of meticulously curated literary treasures, from fiction to history to science to children's books. Also on hand: a wide range of gifts, including candles, notebooks, apparel, and more. Co-owners Amanda Boldenow and Corey Dahl met at a writers' workshop and are fulfilling a dream to bring a community gathering spot for readers and writers in Littleton. "Writing and reading can be solitary activities, so we wanted to create the place readers and writers go," Dahl says. The shop offers an ambitious slate of events, including book clubs, childrens' storytimes, and writers' workshops for adults and youth. While not a metaphysical store, Spell Books does have a mystical side, offering tarot readings and tarot-focused creative writing seminars. Spell Books is at 2376 Main Street. For more information, visit SpellBooksCO.com or call 303-954-0094.







Shop Local, Get Cash Back

Shopping and dining local comes with its own rewards – finding unique items or eating great food while supporting Littleton businesses. Now, shoppers can get cash back for shopping local with the Open Rewards app. Get 5%



Littleton Meats

Got a special dinner in mind? Looking for the perfect cut of meat? Look no further than Littleton Meats, which partners with Wheat Ridge Poultry & Meats to provide fresh, all-natural, local meats free of hormones, preservatives, steroids, and antibiotics. Think flavored bacon, thick-cut steaks, turkey, ham, and more. The shop also offers products for aspiring gourmands from dozens of local small businesses, including Bjorn's Colorado Honey, Fireworks Chefs Butters, sauces, herbs, and others. Littleton Meats was recently featured on CBS 4 News for their

enthusiastic participation in the City of Littleton's Open Rewards program, which offers shoppers cash back for patronizing small Littleton businesses. Littleton Meats is at 3615 West Bowles Avenue, Unit #1. For more information, visit LittletonMeats.com or call 720-921-0174.







Denver Beer Company

Cozy up to Downtown Littleton's newest patio at Denver Beer Co., which took over the spot formerly occupied by Jackass Hill Brewing. Denver Beer Co. focuses on artisan ales and lagers, with year-round selections including Incredible Pedal IPA, seasonals like Peanut Butter Graham Cracker Porter, and the ever-popular Princess Yum Yum, a raspberry Kolsch. The Littleton location is centered around a grand (and dog-friendly) patio inspired by the beer gardens of Bavaria. This is the fifth location for Denver Beer Co., following spots in Lowry, South Downing Street, Platte Street, and Olde Town Arvada. The company maintains a focus on environmental sustainability and charitable giving. Denver Beer Co. is at 2409 Main Street. For more information, visit DenverBeerCo.com or call 720-523-9146.





Daddy's Chicken Shack

"Food like the photos" is the promise of Daddy's Chicken Shack, a new eatery in Littleton Village at Dry Creek Road and Broadway. Daddy's offers a wide menu of pressure-cooked (crispy) and grilled chicken, salads, and breakfast items. Specialties include the Chicken and Waffles, a funnel cake-style waffle sandwich with maple syrup; and Loaded Fries, featuring bacon, sambal, cheese, and scallions. Founded in California in 2018, Daddy's got its start as cofounder Pace Webb's chicken sliders became a hit at catered celebrity parties. Proudly

veteran owned and operated, the Littleton Village location is part of a major expansion for the brand, with dozens more locations in the works nationwide. Daddy's Chicken Shack is at 7330 South Broadway. For more information, visit DaddysChickenShack.com or call 720-994-7771.



