Partnerships to benefit the community

The Dushanbe Teahouse is a natural draw for Boulder residents and tourists alike. The decorative elements inside and outside are awe-inspiring – from the hand-carved pillars and original oil paintings covering the interior, to the exterior featuring ceramic tiles and the perfectly situated patio that rests alongside an off-shoot of the Boulder Creek.

The history of how the teahouse was created by artisans in Dushanbe, Tajikistan – one of Boulder’s sister cities – is an incredible story by itself: gifted to the city, shipped here only to sit unassembled for 10 years before being rebuilt.

But it is only part of the story.

Jump to page 2 to finish reading about CITY PARTNERSHIPS
The uniqueness and the cultural importance of the teahouse created the desire for the city to find a thoughtful and sensitive way to manage the structure. Three Leaf Concepts – the management group formed to support several locally owned, award-winning restaurants – fit the bill.

The City of Boulder and Three Leaf Concepts entered into a partnership in 1996 that has proven beneficial to both parties, as well as the larger community.

In addition to the funds received from lease payments, the city benefits by having a unique tenant able to provide culturally responsible management and operation of the teahouse. Approximately two-thirds of the annual lease payments are then used for major maintenance and improvements for aesthetic aspects of the building, which frees Three Leaf Concepts from having to reinvest in pricey upkeep costs.

The restaurant owners – Lenny and Sara Martinelli and Jerry Manning – can then direct more of their focus toward their craft and day-to-day operations with the backdrop of an ornate, traditional central Asian-styled teahouse that is unique to the western hemisphere. The partnership has been essential to making the teahouse one of the largest tourist attractions in Boulder.

This partnership requires a great deal of dedication on both sides. For Three Leaf Concepts, the commitment is deep and apparent, as illustrated by the following agreements that the group will:

- Emphasize the cultural significance of the Dushanbe Teahouse
- Enhance the Sister City relationship and create a gathering place in the tradition of teahouses in Tajikistan
- Maintain price ranges in the moderate range to allow accessibility to the majority of Boulders residents
- Provide programs, events, fundraisers, weddings, receptions and other special functions throughout the year
- Serve eclectic, ethnic cuisine representing diverse cultural flavors, spices and textures, including a few traditional dishes from Tajikistan and Central Asia.

The relationship between the city and Three Leaf Concepts is just one of hundreds of city partnerships that are contributing to the vibrancy of the community.

Other examples include an agreement between Boulder and Seeds Library Café. In exchange for a subsidized lease of city space at the Boulder Public Library, the café showcases local food and drinks. The relationship provides a vibrant gathering space for the local food community with an affordable seasonal menu to engage the public with local agriculture – while increasing the number of visitors to our library.

Another example is Boulder B-Cycle, where the city provides use of city right-of-way and financial support for docking stations in return for increased two-wheeled transportation options for our community.

Nationally known examples also include the iconic Dairy Arts Center and the Colorado Chautauqua Association, each operating in partnership with the city.

From the arts to sustainable agriculture and more, the city is committed to partnerships that align with our overall mission, vision, values, and that provide benefit to the public. For more information on partnerships with the city, visit bouldercolorado.gov/city-partnerships.
MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Working to make it easier for you

One of the City of Boulder’s top priorities is to foster a community where residents have easy and personal access to city officials, as well as to nurture neighborhood cohesion and social resilience. Simply put, you shouldn’t have to break a sweat to get answers to your questions or spend precious time searching for the information you need.

With that in mind, there are many ongoing and evolving efforts underway to boost your connection and involvement with the city. A recent example is a pilot program that provides the opportunity for community members to have their voices heard during the Open Comment portion of City Council meetings without having to be physically present.

During the pilot, which is scheduled to continue into September, you have the chance to share comments with council over the phone, from the comfort of your home or other convenient location. Staff will evaluate the success of the pilot and determine whether this feature can be offered more permanently in the future.

In a similar vein, the city recently rolled out Be Heard Boulder, an “online town hall” that allows for more personal, robust engagement. Visit beheardboulder.org and join the discussion about a wide range of topics, including ways we can improve our existing website.

We also offer a host of grant funding opportunities to support your creative ideas to bolster or beautify the city, which brings together friends, neighbors and kindred spirits in a personal and meaningful way.

Your feedback and guidance are extremely important and valuable, and we encourage you to reach out in whatever way is easiest and most comfortable for you. Without your interest and engagement in our community and city, Boulder would not be the remarkable place that it is.

Help Improve the City’s Website!

The city is updating its website based on user research, testing and input. You can help by completing a brief questionnaire and watching for an in-person event in early August.

Your input will help inform the structure of the website, helping make it easier for you to find services and information.

Complete the Questionnaire: http://bit.ly/citywebsitesurvey
Share your thoughts about our plan

The City of Boulder Fire-Rescue Department is currently working on an update to its master plan. A key component of this effort is public engagement and informing the community about our services. During the master planning process, we conduct a thorough evaluation of how the department currently operates and identify efficiencies and potential areas for improvement. The master plan will serve as a guiding document for the next five years and will include measurable goals and objectives.

This plan helps the department prioritize its services and align them with available resources, including how to allocate funding, if and when to create new programs and services, where to construct fire stations and what role the fire department should play in the provision of emergency medical services.

One significant change about our service is that it has grown increasingly complex over the last few decades and is now considered an “all-hazards” approach.

This goes well beyond simply responding to fires and now includes responding to mitigate a variety of rescue, medical and fire hazards.

In addition, the fire department is increasing the role that community risk reduction plays to balance traditionally response-focused solutions. These competing needs require us to think and plan strategically to ensure sustainability.

To help us in this process, we need your input. We invite you to read on to learn more details about our services and how to provide us valuable feedback.

ABOUT US

Boulder Fire-Rescue provides fire (structural and wildland) and Basic Life Support Emergency Medical Services to the City of Boulder.

Aside from fire suppression, the department supports a multi-jurisdiction hazardous materials team and a standalone water rescue team. Boulder Fire-Rescue coordinates with city efforts in the joint city/county Office of Emergency Management and acts as the designated emergency response authority for hazardous materials response in the city.

In addition to emergency response, we provide fire-safety education starting as young as preschool through seniors and everyone in between. Our public education programs include car seat inspections, an annual Citizen’s Fire Academy, working with local businesses and organizations by inspecting buildings, and reviewing construction plans for fire prevention code compliance.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Boulder Fire-Rescue provides solutions for the suppression or extinguishment of fires, rescue and emergency medical services, fire inspection and fire prevention services, the management of hazardous substance incidents as defined by state law and the planning or response to public disasters and emergencies, including, windstorms and flooding.

Boulder Fire Rescue exists as a city department as established under the City of Boulder Charter.

Boulder Fire-Rescue protects more than $21 billion dollars’ worth of property within the city which encompasses 25.8 square miles of land and is surrounded by 70.8 square miles of city Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP). We responded to nearly 12,000 calls in 2017.

Jump to page 5 to finish reading about the MASTER PLAN
SOME FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Aging population (more older adults): Boulder’s population is aging, and the county population of age 60 and over is expected to nearly double by 2020. In 2008, 12 percent of Boulder County’s residents were over the age of 60. In 2020, that age group is expected to reach 21 percent.

Increase in population: The City of Boulder’s 2016 population is 108,090, with projections indicating an increase to 114,000 by 2035. This figure could be even higher as the University of Colorado – with a current enrollment of approximately 30,000 – projects an additional 11,000 students by 2030.

Increase in emergency medical service requests: With Boulder’s population and employment projections, requests for emergency medical assistance is expected to increase, particularly in areas being redeveloped. We have already experienced an 11 percent increase in medical calls between 2015 and 2017.

Year-round wildfire risk: The city is surrounded by open space, which increases the risk of wildfires. Due to changes in climate, the wildfire risk has expanded from one season to all year. The city has recent experience with wildland/urban interface fires outside the historic fire season. Several of these fires have been significant events requiring intensive application of both internal and external resources.

Urbanization: Because Boulder is such a popular destination, areas of the city are becoming less suburban and more urban. In the last 10 years, 3,270 dwelling units have been constructed, and more than 5 million square feet of commercial and industrial space have been built.

Housing Density: Current trends and projections indicate that most new housing units will be in higher-density, multi-unit developments, and Boulder will continue to serve as a regional employment center. In some sections of the city, this creates new challenges for fire and emergency medical service delivery because of impacts like increased population density, changes to street size and grid and public areas designed for pedestrians, not large vehicles.
Boulder is fortunate to have engaged and dedicated community members willing to commit their time and skills to the wide variety of volunteer opportunities available in all corners of the city. In an effort to recognize and amplify these efforts, city staff recently completed an exhaustive process that has put Boulder in the best possible position to leverage the talent of those volunteers.

In April, Boulder was officially certified as a Service Enterprise by Points of Light, the world’s largest organization dedicated to volunteer service. The city’s Volunteer Cooperative program completed an extensive assessment, over 20 hours of training and consulting, and comprehensive internal planning and change to better integrate volunteers in day-to-day operations.

Boulder becomes just the second city in the entire nation to earn this designation, and the first in Colorado.

“It’s taking us from having volunteerism as a ‘nice to have’ to more of a strategy as to how we engage the community, as well as how to increase staff capacity,” said Aimee Kane, Boulder’s volunteer program and project manager.

The benefits of Service Enterprise certification are plentiful and impactful, according to Points of Light. The average certified organization experiences a 23 percent increase in volunteerism annually, and every dollar that is invested in effective volunteer engagement typically yields a $3 to $6 return.

“Boulder joins a prestigious group committed to effectively delivering on their missions by strategically engaging volunteer time and talent,” said Natalye Paquin, president and CEO of Points of Light. “With dedication such as this, many lives are improved and the community is strengthened.”

Achieving the Service Enterprise certification injected new energy into the work of the Volunteer Cooperative and renewed an effort to streamline the process for those who want to get involved but may not know where to begin.

“Within the city, we’ve adjusted how we engage with volunteers or potential volunteers so that it’s not that this department does it one way and that department does it another way,” Kane said. “We want to make it easy for our volunteers and make it clear that they are working on behalf of the city as well as the community as a whole.”

To learn more about Service Enterprise certification and to explore the many ways to get in on the volunteer fun, visit bouldercolorado.gov/volunteer.
HOMETOWN HERO

A community is best defined by its people. From volunteers to city employees to neighbors helping neighbors, there is no shortage of hometown heroes in Boulder—and we are delighted to spotlight one per newsletter. This edition’s Hometown Hero is:

Graham Hill
Founder, Shared Paths Boulder

Graham Hill first experienced the thrill of cruising along one of Boulder’s miles and miles of pathways at an early age, zipping from one end of the city to another without having to worry about busy intersections or sharing the road with fast-moving vehicles. Over the years, his appreciation and advocacy for these multi-use paths have only grown.

“I grew up with this love of biking and my parents let me go anywhere in town. To feel the freedom of being a kid on a bike is very special,” Hill said. “It’s important that youth in the community realize what they have and for adults to show them what we have here in Boulder and to respect it.”

Hill grew up in South Boulder and graduated from Fairview High School before starting a career in sports marketing and public relation. It didn’t take long for him to migrate into areas of urban transportation, which eventually led to him founding Shared Paths Boulder, an organization dedicated to building a culture of community experience and love for the city’s multi-use path system.

Shared Paths Boulder is active in providing purpose to the paths, while enticing locals and visitors alike to take in the sites, creeks and many wonders that make them special. Local art tours and co-sponsorships of Boulder’s big events such as the B-360, Bike Show and Bike to Work Day are some of the many activities that weave the community onto the paths.

Hill kept a close eye on other cities around the country that were taking creative approaches to the many transportation needs of the community. There’s the High Line in New York City, the 606 in Chicago and Forest Park in Portland, Ore., among others. In one form or another, all of these are safe trails for not only bikers and runners, but also for art installations and gathering places.

And Boulder might just be the crown jewel of them all. There are about 75 miles of contiguous paths in the city, with dozens of tunnels, underpasses and breezeways that allow for smooth passage away from auto traffic.

“We give out lights and bells and try to help people with directions. There are times when we help people fix flat tires or offer aid after a wipe out,” Hill said. “More than anything, we really want to be out there and give an actual hello to a stranger on the path. We want to be that smile that they may not encounter in everyday life.”

To learn more about Shared Paths Boulder and the Stewardship Program, visit sharedpathsboulder.org.

ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Shared Paths Boulder’s Stewardship Program offers interested individuals the opportunity to be trained and outfitted to monitor a path and interact with path users. The role is part safety steward and part path concierge.

“Whether it’s commuting to work or seeing a friend or visiting your favorite store, you can get there via a path. You really can leave street life behind if you choose to walk or roll or bike,” Hill said.

He added that none of this would be possible without the dedication of the community and the city over the past 35 years to keep evolving and continue to move forward with the shared philosophy about paths.

“You have to acknowledge how lucky we are, and we have to fight for it if we want to keep it,” he said.
Look for new murals around town

In the coming months, you may notice the installation of murals along the sidewalks and alleys in neighborhoods throughout Boulder. Colorful and captivating works of art will pop up near you, perhaps on a garage door, privacy fence, garden shed or even a driveway.

These art installations are part of the new “Creative Neighborhoods” program, which is a collaboration between the City of Boulder’s Office of Arts and Culture, area homeowners and regional artists to add new artwork commissions on residential properties.

“Our community sent a strong message in the Community Cultural Plan that art should be around every corner,” said Matt Chasansky, manager of the Office of Arts and Culture, “that serendipitous encounters with creative, beautiful works should be part of everyday life. For public art, this often happens in grand civic spaces: sculptures and murals in parks, buildings and plazas. This new program should explore that idea.

“Public art brings value to our civic spaces: sense of place, attachment, social infrastructure. Those are also assets that we can encourage at every level of every neighborhood.”

This pilot project will support nine homeowners to commission new murals on their properties, visible from sidewalks and walkways. The murals will be painted over the next few months and be up for at least the next five years.

Project funding is provided through the Community Culture and Safety Tax, administered by the City of Boulder Office of Arts and Culture.

Tag us on social media when you see new murals!
#boulderarts #creativeneighborhoods #boulderpublicart

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join our volunteer team Sept. 21-23 at the Boulder Public Library to support the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival Boulder, an incredible weekend of literature and conversation with authors from across the world.

We need your help! Sign up today at jaipurliteraturefestival.org/boulder/volunteer.

Questions? Call 303-441-3114 or email kelschk@boulderlibrary.org.
When Merlyn Holmes applied for a grant through Boulder’s Neighborhood Services program in 2017, she had big ideas. She envisioned creativity, mindfulness and celebration as the key tools needed to build a social movement through an ongoing series of participatory, art-centric events.

Her creation took the form of Mmmwhah!, like the sound of a loud smooch, which is shorthand for “Music, Movement, Mindfulness – Whoa! and – Art.”

“I sought out ways to bring people together, ways for us to stay infused with joy and the sense of possibility and inspiration, to ultimately stay engaged and working in a collaborative, creative fashion,” Holmes said. “There may be no better training ground for harmonious, productive relations than collective, improvisational art-making of one form or another.”

Her ambitious vision was manifesting in baby steps through a few workshops and what Holmes called “creativity gatherings.” Then she saw a neighborhood newsletter highlighting an opportunity for thousands of dollars of grant funding through the city. That was in spring of 2017, and one year later Mmmwhah! is thriving to the point that it can’t be contained by Boulder’s city limits.

After attending a few Mmmwhah! events in Boulder, a staff member from the City of Lafayette’s Cultural Arts Commission suggested grant funds could be available if Mmmwhah! was ready to branch out. They were. So there is now an established monthly series of Mmmwhah! Creativity Gatherings in Lafayette.

“With that early rush of events, people showed up and they really got it. More and more people began to open up and to work together and to explore broader improvisational realms,” Holmes said. “On the surface many of our events appear lighthearted, and yet what arises is this profound connection of people being in the moment and attuning to the whole. That’s why Mmmwhah! is a social movement at its heart, and I think that’s why it’s taking hold. It’s fun too!”

“It’s been really sweet to find all these kindred spirits.”

Mmmwhah! event attendees will find everything from creativity gatherings and music jams to African water drumming and “Yoga + Music & Movement Meditation” (nicknamed “Mmms”). Recently, The Mmmwhah! Ensemble of musicians, movers and artists have taken these practices to a performance level.

The movement took hold in 2017 with an initial Neighborhood Enhancement Grant. After a successful and positive first year hosting more than 75 participatory events in the Holiday Neighborhood of North Boulder, Neighborhood Services issued an additional $15,000 in grant funding for Mmmwhah! to branch out to two more neighborhoods in South and East Boulder in 2018.

Show/Share/Create grants will be available this fall for neighborhoods that would like to work with Holmes to host a participatory creative event. More information will be available at bouldercolorado.org/neighborhoods after Sept. 1. Visit mmmwhah.com for more information, to see a list of upcoming events and to sign up for future invites.
Building health equity in Boulder

Boulder is known for active and healthy residents who love to spend time outdoors and stay fit. Recognizing the negative health impacts of sugar-sweetened beverages, Boulder voters drafted and passed a ballot initiative in 2016 known as the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Product Distribution (SSB) Tax.

The goal of this tax is to reduce the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and fund programs that reduce health disparities and promote health equity for City of Boulder residents.

The SSB Distribution Tax went into effect July 1, 2017. The revenue collected is distributed through the Health Equity Fund (HEF), which provides funding for programs to promote health, general wellness and chronic disease prevention in the city. Research shows that healthy foods, safe drinking water, physical activity and access to health services can help reduce obesity, diabetes, oral health problems and other preventable diseases.

So far, approximately $2.7 million has been awarded to local programs through the HEF. Here are a few of them:

**HEALTHY TOGETHER**
This collaboration between Boulder Parks and Recreation, I Have A Dream Foundation and Boulder Housing Partners is designed to ensure low-income, primarily Latino youth and families have access to physical activity opportunities aimed at preventing and eliminating health disparities by supporting overall health among Boulder’s low-income housing communities. Each organization has a role to play in making this happen: one provides physical activities and access to recreation, another offers academic enrichment and the other delivers the community centers to host the programs.

**NO STUDENT HUNGRY**
This program provides food to low-income students and their families to help ensure they can eat healthy meals over weekends and holidays, when kids aren’t able to eat at school. During the 2017-18 school year, more than 500 food bags were distributed across 13 schools each week. Parents report that their children are excited to help prepare meals and try new foods.

**FRESH FOOD CONNECT**
Boulder Food Rescue is using its HEF grant to increase the amount of fresh, locally grown produce distributed to local low-income residents. The program uses a mobile app to identify new sources of produce including that which is donated by residents with home gardens. Volunteers pick up donations by bicycle and distribute to housing centers and child care centers.

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

The city is currently accepting applications to the Health Equity Fund 2019 Fund Round, through which the city expects to award roughly $5 million in grants for these program priorities:

1. Chronic disease prevention through physical fitness, food and water security, or health and wellness education.
2. Physical, dental or behavioral health services.
3. Research or educational campaigns designed to identify, understand and address health disparities.
4. Systems integration or collaborative approaches that provide more coordinated, efficient and effective health services.
5. Innovative programs to advance health equity.

The city will also be working with researchers to evaluate the impact of the SSB Tax on the shopping behavior of residents and on improving the health of residents through funded programs.

To learn more and get involved, please visit [bouldercolorado.gov/human-services/health-equity-fund](http://bouldercolorado.gov/human-services/health-equity-fund) or contact Elizabeth Crowe, program manager, at 303-441-1928 or crowee@bouldercolorado.gov.
Boulder es conocido por sus residentes sanos y activos quienes disfrutan pasar tiempo al aire libre y mantenerse en forma. Conociendo los efectos negativos para la salud que tienen las bebidas azucaradas, los votantes de Boulder elaboraron y aprobaron una iniciativa de boleta electoral en 2016 conocida como el impuesto a la distribución de las bebidas azucaradas (SSB, por sus siglas en inglés).

El objetivo de este impuesto es reducir el consumo de bebidas azucaradas y financiar programas para reducir las disparidades de salud y promover la equidad de salud de los residentes de la ciudad de Boulder.

El impuesto a la distribución de las SSB entró en vigor el 1 de julio de 2017. Los ingresos recaudados se distribuyen a través del Health Equity Fund (HEF), que proporciona fondos a programas que fomentan la salud, el bienestar general y la prevención de enfermedades crónicas en la ciudad. Las investigaciones demuestran que los alimentos saludables, el agua potable, la actividad física y el acceso a los servicios de salud pueden ayudar a reducir la obesidad, la diabetes, los problemas de salud bucal y otras enfermedades prevenibles.

Hasta ahora, se han otorgado aproximadamente $ 2.7 millones a los programas locales a través del HEF. Estos son algunos de ellos:

**SANOS JUNTOS**
Esta colaboración entre el Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Boulder, la Fundación Tengo un Sueño (I Have a Dream Foundation) y Boulder Housing Partners está diseñada para garantizar que las personas de bajos ingresos, principalmente los jóvenes y las familias latinas, tengan acceso a oportunidades de realizar actividad física destinada a prevenir y eliminar las disparidades de salud mediante el apoyo del bienestar general de las comunidades de viviendas de bajos ingresos. Cada organización tiene un papel que desempeñar para hacer que esto suceda: una proporciona actividad física y acceso a recreación, otra ofrece enriquecimiento académico, y otra ofrece los centros comunitarios para implementar los programas.

**NINGÚN ESTUDIANTE CON HAMBRE**
Este programa proporciona alimentos a los estudiantes de bajos ingresos y a sus familias para ayudarlos a que puedan comer comidas saludables durante los fines de semana y los días festivos, cuando los niños no comen en la escuela. Durante el año escolar 2017-18, más de 500 bolsas de comida se distribuyeron en 13 escuelas semanalmente.

**CONEXIÓN CON ALIMENTOS FRESCOS**
Boulder Food Rescue está utilizando sus fondos del HEF para aumentar la cantidad de verduras frescas de producción local que se distribuye a los residentes de bajos ingresos. El programa utiliza una aplicación móvil para identificar nuevas fuentes de verduras, incluso lo que donan los residentes con huertas en casa. Los voluntarios recogen las donaciones en bicicleta y las distribuyen a los centros de viviendas y a centros de cuidado infantil.
Below is an update on several current and upcoming City of Boulder construction projects that may affect traffic and parking in the city. For the latest updates on these and other construction projects, be sure to check BoulderConeZones.net.

SAFETY TIP: For your safety and that of the construction crews, and to ensure that work can be completed on time, please observe all detours and do not enter the work zone – marked by cones, barrels, barricades and fencing.

For more information about these projects, visit bouldercolorado.gov/transportation and bouldercolorado.gov/water. Visit CoTrip.org for information about Colorado Department of Transportation projects or bouldercounty.org/transportation/closures-and-construction for Boulder County projects.

Please note that start and completion dates could change due to factors such as weather.
In this newsletter, we often explore the city’s projects and programs designed to reduce the community’s impact on the planet. From energy efficiency programs to legislative advocacy, these efforts touch almost all of us, whether we are renters, homeowners, business owners or community groups. In this issue, we’re sharing information on an ordinance that focuses on some of the community’s biggest energy users: commercial and industrial buildings.

Boulder City Council adopted the Building Performance Ordinance in 2015. The ordinance requires rating and reporting and energy efficiency standards that lead to reduced energy use and improved building stock quality. That’s great news for our community, but it also directly benefits building owners and tenants.

By gaining knowledge about their buildings’ energy use, owners and tenants identify opportunities for performance improvement, save money on utility bills through cost-effective efficiency measures and increase the value of their building.

In fact, Boulder isn’t the only city tackling building energy use in this manner. Boulder is one of 25 cities in the country to adopt such a policy. Though many of the elements of Boulder’s policy are similar to those implemented by other cities, Boulder’s policy is one of a select few that moves beyond building energy performance awareness and requires efficiency actions to achieve building performance improvement.

The Building Performance Ordinance is a long-term effort for the city with a phased timeline. Every two years, a group of buildings is phased in to begin annual rating and reporting, beginning with the largest buildings. Once rating and reporting begins, additional efficiency requirements are phased in every two or three years.

In 2016, the first year of the program, city-owned buildings over 5,000 square feet and commercial and industrial buildings over 50,000 square feet were required to begin annual rating and reporting of their energy use to the city. The program achieved 100 percent compliance rate in its first year and collected energy use data on Boulder’s 165 largest commercial and industrial buildings, representing over 16 million square feet.

In 2018, an additional 157 buildings that are 30,000 square feet and larger began rating and reporting. A total of 322 buildings representing nearly 33 million square feet are currently submitting energy data, which is helping to identify energy saving opportunities in the commercial and industrial sector that would result in significant energy cost savings and emissions reductions. By 2020, nearly 500 buildings will be rating and reporting.

If you want to follow along, please visit [BoulderBuildingPerformance.com](http://BoulderBuildingPerformance.com). Analysis on the energy use reported through 2018 will be published later this year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Energy consumption from the commercial and industrial sector accounts for over 50 percent of the City of Boulder’s greenhouse gas emissions.
The City of Boulder has long supported recycling as a way to be good stewards of the environment that surrounds us and to support our Climate Commitment goals. Boulder’s goal is to reduce the waste we create and then reuse, recycle and compost most of what we throw away, both as a community and as a city organization. This is not only better for the environment, it can also save money.

Since 2015, Boulder’s Public Works Department has been recycling materials such as concrete, including sidewalk panels, asphalt, cobble and soil after repairing and replacing water mains. These excavated materials are saved, refined and then re-purposed for backfill and other maintenance needs. This process saves money by reducing the landfill costs to dispose of removed material.

By reusing the material instead of sending it to the dump in 2017, the city saved approximately $1.5 million in tipping fees, transportation and backfill costs just through the recycling process. In 2018, potential savings are estimated to be $22,000 from the road material recycling efforts. Over the life of the project, the city has repurposed over 50,000 tons of material.

“By examining our business practices, the perfect opportunity arose where we not only reuse these materials, but also save taxpayer dollars and align with the city’s ambitious climate commitments,” said Josh Meck, Boulder’s utilities superintendent.

This large volume of recycled materials helped increase the citywide diversion rate, or amount of material prevented from going to the landfill, by 7 percent this year. With the help of Public Works’ recycling efforts, the city’s total diversion rate is now 51 percent. Innovations like this will help Boulder reach its Zero Waste goal of 85 percent diversion from the landfill by 2025.

Plastic bags are contaminants in both the compost and recycling waste streams. When these bags end up in the compost, they result in less usable soil filled with small pieces of plastic. When they are put in your curbside recycling bins, the Boulder County Recycling Center must be temporarily shut down when plastic bags get caught in the machines.

Bags are such a problem at the recycling center that the city’s 10-cent Disposable Bag Fee is funding new equipment to help specifically with the removal of plastic bags. But it’s still important to do your part!

While plastic bags are not recyclable in curbside recycling bins, clean, dry and empty bags can be taken to the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM), 6400 Arapahoe Road, or to various collection containers around town, including at many grocery stores.

Do you own or know of a Boulder business that could use compostable bags? The city can provide a FREE six-month supply. The city’s Green Bag Giveaway program benefits businesses that are composting and compliant with the Universal Zero Waste ordinance, while helping keep plastic contamination out of the compost. Learn more and apply at bouldercolorado.gov/zero-waste/green-bags.
HOP TO IT
BOULDER!

Hop

With service you can count on and expanded weekend hours, sit back, relax and leave the driving to us. HOP to CU, 29th Street, Boulder Junction and Downtown Boulder.

BOULDERCOLORADO.GOV/HOPBUS
For real-time info download the Transit app.
Mosquito activity at an all-time high

If you live along the southeast or northern edges of the city or spend time outdoors in these parts of town, you know firsthand that this year has had record-breaking mosquito activity. The entire region has seen a spike in mosquito activity that began last year and has continued into this season.

The City of Boulder, along with Boulder County and other cities and counties throughout the Front Range, have comprehensive mosquito management programs in place. Yet, mosquito numbers remain far above average.

Plenty of moisture and hot weather have provided perfect conditions for mosquitoes. But these factors alone don’t explain the high mosquito populations or what the underlying causes might be for these changes.

City ecologists are gathering data and information to try to better understand the factors that could be contributing to increased mosquito activity and are consulting with subject matter experts. This information will be used to explore additional strategies to manage mosquitoes as the city updates and improves its mosquito management program.

COPING WITH HIGH MOSQUITO ACTIVITY

There are several products on the market that claim to reduce mosquitoes or prevent bites. It’s important to know what is and isn’t effective.

WHAT DOESN’T WORK

**Bug zappers:** A University of Florida scientist, Jonathan Day, says that bug zappers can cause more harm than good. They can attract more mosquitoes to your yard and kill harmless or beneficial insects that help control pests. In a study, only eight mosquitoes were caught of the 10,000 insects killed in one night by a bug zapper.

**Sonic devices/application:** There are a number of ultrasonic devices and mobile applications that claim to use sound to repel mosquitoes. There is no evidence that any of them work.

**Citronella candles:** Studies have shown that citronella candles do not reduce mosquito bites.

WHAT DOES WORK

**Effective Repellents/Bug Spray:** Products containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin or IR 5353 are all effective at repelling mosquitoes. Make sure that you follow the label directions and reapply as needed.

**Protective clothing:** Long sleeves and pants can help prevent mosquito bites.

**Draining standing water:** The types of mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile virus tend to breed in urban areas, particularly in yards. Inspect your yard and make sure that there are no objects such as toys, garbage can lids, plant pots, or depressions in your yard that are holding water. Change bird bath water at least every four days. Make sure your gutters aren’t clogged and holding water.

**Fans:** Try using fans on your deck or patio to disrupt the cues that mosquitoes use to locate humans.

**Mosquito Dunks:** If you have an area with stagnant water that can’t be drained, try using a larvicide called Bti. This is the same product that commercial mosquito control companies use to control mosquito larvae.

Visit Bouldercolorado.gov/IPM to learn more about the city’s mosquito program, including weekly reports on mosquito activity, tips about how to reduce mosquito breeding sites on your property and protect yourself from bites and ways you can get involved as the city updates its program.
Every September, Boulder declares Pollinator Appreciation Month, when people throughout the city come together to reflect on the natural beauty and bountiful harvest that pollinators bring to our community.

Art students from Crestview, Foothills and Flatirons elementary schools are celebrating Pollinator Appreciation Month by creating posters that express their hopes and wishes for the community’s bee population through a contest hosted and judged by the BeeChicas and Kathy Lane, the library’s programs, events and outreach coordinator.

The children’s artwork can be viewed from Aug. 15 through the end of September on the walls outside the Boulder Library Makerspace, located at the north wing of the main library at 1001 Arapahoe Ave.

Finalists’ posters can also be viewed on the city’s website, at Bee-Boulder.org, along with Pollinator Appreciation Month events, including the Tour de Hive on Sunday, Sept. 9, and the Bee Boulder Family Festival on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Boulder is home to more than 550 native bee species that come in different shapes and sizes, as well as many other animals, including the beetles, flies, butterflies and hummingbirds that pollinate our native flowering plants and many fruits and vegetables.

Pollinator Appreciation Month gives us a chance to give back to pollinators by learning more about them and creating pollinator gardens in our yards and public spaces to provide for their needs. Visit BeeBoulder.org to learn what you can do to protect our pollinators and find upcoming events.

**Don’t forget the bees, tomatoes, carrots, peas**
**How would we make our winter dinners without the faithful bees?**
**We wouldn’t, we couldn’t**
**We all need the bees**
**The sweet, sweet honey they make, and all the fruit they pollinate.**

*Poem written by Iris Stahl, 10, Flatirons Elementary*

**From top to bottom, the pollinator posters were created by:**
Lily Lisbon, 9, Foothills Elementary; Ada Frankel, Age 10, Flatirons Elementary; Bella Mae Ramona Staart, Age 9, Crestview Elementary; and Calvin Boal, Age 10, Flatirons Elementary.
Q&A about the creation of a local electric utility

In April, the city appointed a new director to lead the city’s ongoing effort to create a local electric utility, Steve Catanach. Here we provide more about his background and get an update on the project.

Q: What’s your role with the city? What have you done previously?
I lead a team of folks who are working hard to evaluate and create a community-owned electric utility in Boulder. As an engineer by trade and the former director of the Fort Collins electric utility, my job is to guide the city through the next few years of the project, where we’re really focusing on detailed engineering and financial analysis. Before becoming the utility development director, I provided engineering consulting services to the city for about two years. I have more than 30 years of experience in electric utilities, including investor-owned and community-owned.

Q: What’s the latest on the project? What are some of the key milestones ahead?
After voters approved additional funding last year, we’ve been focused on defining key pieces of the utility. We’re currently working with Xcel engineers to design the future delivery system, one that serves in-city Boulder customers and one that serves customers that will remain with Xcel outside of city limits. We’re also working with them to figure out what’s happening with the substations – where the transmission system connects with the distribution system.

This detailed engineering work, along with other analysis, is helping us refine our cost projections. When we go to the voters in 2020, our goal is to provide the community with a picture of the costs and benefits so that they can evaluate the potential risks and opportunities.

On top of this, we’re expanding our communications and engagement efforts so that the citizens can participate in this project and be well-informed heading into the planned 2020 “go/no-go” decision.

Q: Why is the city doing this?
The city has a set of climate and energy goals that are at the heart of this effort, including achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 and reducing our emissions 80 percent by 2050. The opportunity to control how we get our energy will give us new ways to reach these goals. We’re also looking to improve the public’s voice in our shared energy future. Local utilities tend to better reflect their communities’ values and interests.

Q: How can folks stay up-to-date on this project?
I think the best way is to join the Climate and Energy email list, available at bouldercolorado.gov/communications/city-newsletters. Also, be sure to visit BoulderEnergyFuture.com for updates and resources.

How will a heat pump make your home more comfortable this summer?

- Cools and purifies indoor air.
- More efficient: cooling and heating in one unit.
- Enhanced comfort: cool one room or the whole house.

Speak with an advisor today to learn about options for your home, rebates and help getting started. Visit energysmarties.com/comfort365.
Lyn Mead has always been someone who plans and prepares for the future, and that includes a future when she is no longer here. When she first learned about Boulder’s new Housing Legacy Program (in this very newsletter), she realized she may have found a solution about what to do with her most valuable asset – her Gunbarrel home.

With no heirs or immediate family to consider, Mead at one point willed the house to a friend … without the friend even knowing about it. She then cycled through a couple other options, including leaving it to an organization that would handle the eventual sale of the property. But it all seemed too complicated. That’s when she discovered the program for Boulder homeowners who wish to leave a legacy for the next generation.

“It’s delightful to have Lyn join the project,” Zelazo said. “I’ve gotten an appreciation for how complex this is, not the paperwork but people coming to a decision on their own that they want to leave their house for permanently affordable housing.”

There is no question that donating a home is a major decision, especially in an area where real estate is so valuable. Realizing as much, the city has worked to make the process as straightforward as possible.

“It really was no trouble at all,” Mead said. “I was glad to do it and I feel a sense of relief because the details have been taken care of.”

For those with a philosophy similar to Mead and Zelazo but remain uncertain about taking such a big step as donating a home, both stress that the decision is not set in stone and flexibility is built in.

“The decision is not set in stone and flexibility is built in,” Zelazo said. “If something happens and I need financial resources from the house, that’s my option. The agreement with the city is just changed, like anything in a will can be changed.

“It’s simple that way and less stressful for people because there is always the option to make a change if the need should arise.”

For more information about the Housing Legacy Program, visit bit.ly/2pTaxCW or contact Leslie Pinkham, asset program manager, by phone at 303-441-4055 or via email at pinkhaml@bouldercolorado.gov.
This community newsletter is created by the City of Boulder to share local government news, information, initiatives and events with residents.

It will be printed and distributed bi-monthly through 2018. You also can sign up to receive an electronic version in your email inbox by visiting bouldercolorado.gov/newsletter.

We welcome your feedback!

If you have suggestions for future stories you’d like to read, please email them to communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov.

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