Beetles take a toll on city’s ash trees

The emerald ash borer (EAB) beetle has been chewing up ash trees in Boulder since 2013. Despite efforts to remove unhealthy trees and treat the healthy ones, signs point to a surge in the spread and population of the EAB. And that spells trouble for the roughly 70,000 ash trees spread across the city.

Flip to pages 22-23 to learn more about what to expect and what you can do.
It usually doesn't take long for a visitor to Boulder to hear a local brag about our “300 days of sunshine.” While the accuracy of that figure can be debated, it's true that solar energy is our most plentiful renewable resource – one the city plans to rely on more and more in the future.

There are a variety of ways to generate the electricity we need to power our homes and businesses. Compared to burning coal and natural gas, solar is an abundant and clean resource that is key to helping the city achieve its climate goals. While the city expects a lot more of our future energy to be generated by wind, solar can provide local benefits that wind cannot: chiefly, helping keep our community economically vital and improving our resilience.

Our community has already made great progress and has enthusiastically embraced solar; some residents were among the world’s earliest adopters. Including solar installed on households, business, the University of Colorado Boulder and Boulder Valley School District buildings, the city is home to more than 23 megawatts of solar installed, equivalent to about 40 football fields covered with solar panels.

**SOLAR STRATEGIES**

To support the next stage of solar adoption and ensure that the community can reach its climate goals, the city is learning more about its options. Boulder’s energy strategist, Yael Gichon, worked in partnership with dozens of representatives from the Boulder solar community, the Colorado Energy Group and Optony to evaluate possible approaches. Let’s examine a few:

1. Providing an incentive for solar energy production to make the economics for solar energy even better.
2. Designing and promoting a Standardized Green Lease focused on commercial properties that would provide a platform where both owner and tenant receive the financial benefits of solar and energy efficiency investments.
3. Developing a local Community Solar Garden that would provide participation opportunities to renters, members of HOAs or those with roofs ill-suited to solar.
4. Creating Solar + On-site Energy Storage services contracts to support efforts to bolster resilience and address intermittency through combining solar and battery storage.
5. Building a comprehensive (one-stop) solar shop that would consolidate solar information, outreach, education, leadership recognition and data into a single office with a managed online platform.

Boulder’s Climate Commitment was unanimously adopted by City Council in December 2016. The commitment identifies energy goals, including the goal of 100 megawatts of locally generated energy by 2030.

**DID YOU KNOW …**

That the city created a tool to help you examine the solar potential of your roof? Check it out at [BoulderSolarTool.com](http://BoulderSolarTool.com). To reach the community’s goal of 100 megawatts of local generation by 2030, all of us will play an important role. With each new rooftop solar installation or subscription to a solar garden, we move closer to meeting the goal – while reducing our carbon footprint along the way.
MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Charting city priorities for 2018, beyond

We are so fortunate to live and work in a community such as Boulder, where our residents are fully engaged and involved in the work of community and local government. As we look ahead, 2018 promises to be a year of improved community outreach and engagement on several key issues that will be tackled by City Council and staff. At its annual retreat in late January, council identified top priorities for the coming year, in addition to the excellent core local government services that will continue to be offered.

As we focus on the community’s greatest needs, I want to share a handful of city priorities that have been discussed over the past year and during the council retreat.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The challenge our community will continue to address is expanding options for low- and middle-income housing opportunities. It’s no secret that Boulder, and much of Colorado, can be an expensive place to live. With council direction, the city is exploring several options. Council has requested the creation of a Housing Advisory Board to examine housing policy, including a focus on preserving existing affordable and market-rate housing, and keeping mobile home communities safe and affordable. We also are looking to create a down payment assistance program to help families pay the cost of a down payment on the purchase of a home.

GROWTH

From subcommunity planning and requiring development to demonstrate community-wide benefit, managing growth in the city has been at the top of many minds. Boulder is acclaimed for its forward-thinking, high-tech focus while maintaining a unique character. With guidance from the community, the council and city leaders will work to outline smart ways to continue our progress with a focus on fixing and improving what we currently have in place. Two areas certain to garner attention include options for the Alpine-Balsam site and subcommunity planning, which helps focus the larger vision for development in certain areas of the city.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is an important component about how we address affordability and mobility. In addition to ongoing work with regional partners to build on robust rapid transit on US 36 and Highways 7 and 119, council directed staff to make significant strides on our goal of “Vision Zero.” The goal of this effort is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries between cars, cars and bikes, and cars and pedestrians – essentially exploring how we can make our streets safer. This will include enhanced public education about safe practices as well as improving includes traffic signals, establishing safer intersections, enforcement and more.

BROADBAND

Access to quality high-speed internet is becoming an essential part of daily life. As part of an ongoing effort, Boulder is exploring opportunities that help provide residents and businesses access to high-speed fiber Internet consistent with our community’s tech-savvy reputation. The cost and level of service can be a significant barrier for much of the community, so progress toward bridging the existing “digital divide” to allow all people to have high-quality internet service is underway, and to prepare our community for the future. City council will be re-visiting the feasibility of a city sponsored approach to broadband later this Spring, which may require a new tax that voters would have to approve.

This is just a sample of the high-level issues the city will address over the next two years. We look forward to a successful 2018 full of challenges and opportunities. We appreciate your continued feedback, and I hope you take a moment to connect with us, participate and engage. For more information, visit bouldercolorado.gov/engage.
Community, Culture and Safety Tax renewed

This past November, voters approved a four-year renewal of the 0.3 percent Community, Culture and Safety (CCS) tax. This sales and use tax will fund several capital improvement projects and provide matching funds for a number of Boulder-based non-profits' facilities.

A few of the projects approved by voters in November 2017 include:

- Enhancing the planned redevelopment of Scott Carpenter Outdoor Pool to include renovating the existing bathhouse; increasing the size of the existing lap pool from six to 10 lanes; providing a separate family leisure pool, splash pad and water slides; building shade structures; and renovating the existing parking lot. Construction is expected to begin in late summer 2018.
- Enhancement to the planned flood improvements to Fourmile Canyon Creek, including a new multi-use path connection between 19th Street and Broadway. The project will also replace two bridges at Violet and Upland avenues with bicycle and pedestrian underpasses. This project is expected to be completed in early 2022.
- A new North Boulder Public Library branch, which will be a full-service library with community meeting space, programs and plenty of books. The project will increase outreach to underserved populations in Boulder. Planning work will begin in 2018.
- Matching funds to Community Cycles to support the purchase of a new facility that will triple the amount of space to serve the community with recycling used bicycles, providing classes in bike safety and mechanics and other education and outreach activities.
- Matching funds to support Growing Gardens in building its Pollinator Pavilion, which began construction in late 2017. The building will house a year-round teaching space, demonstration kitchen, sheltered harvest area and offices.

While excitement is building about future improvements, many people have already seen the benefits of projects completed with funding from the first CCS tax, approved by voters in 2014. A few of those projects include:

- The Civic Area: Park at the Core, located east of the Main Library, opened last November after a multiyear construction project. Improvements include infrastructure linking the library and Boulder Creek, the Creekside Nature Play area, pathways, benches, landscaping, lighting and signage.
- The University Hill Event Street, a landscaped public gathering space open to vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles that can be easily closed for events. Event Street opened last November with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that showcased how the street could be used in the future by community organizations.
- The Dairy Arts Center received funding for several improvements, including additional soundproofing, dressing rooms, reconfiguration of a theater, expansion and modernization of the lobby and façade, and modifying an outdoor deck area for special events space. This project was completed in October 2016.

Through taxpayer support, improvements to the city will continue to benefit the entire community. For more information on all CCS projects, please visit bouldercolorado.gov/pages/community-culture-safety.
Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) understands that exercise routines are personal. For any of us to succeed at our health and fitness goals, we need to find a workout that works for us – whether that is mastering yoga’s downward-facing dog, a perfect plank or crunch-and-curl, smooth swim strokes or a fun morning spin class. To be sustainable, your fitness program needs to align with activities you can stick with over time.

BPR is committed to your health and well-being by offering hundreds of diverse classes hoping to serve the fitness needs of most residents. But sifting through all those options to find the right fit for you can be overwhelming. So, we’ve created an easy, new way for you to “Find Your Fit.”

In January, BPR launched Find Your Fit – a quick, simple and free tool designed to help you find the best fitness options for your lifestyle. By answering six to 10 questions about your preferences, the tool narrows the hundreds of options to a handful of tailored recommendations matching your fitness personality.

Looking to start a new fitness routine? Find Your Fit has recommendations for that. Want new inspiration for a routine rut? The tool provides creative solutions that supplement a current workout. Open to trying anything? Discover a new class that pushes your comfort zone or a hidden gem you didn’t know BPR offered.

Whatever your fitness interests or needs, Find Your Fit is an easy and engaging way to set your fitness goals into motion. Recommendations are linked to online descriptions, schedules and an easy link to registration. Since the program’s launch, the survey tool has already aided dozens of Boulder residents and will continue to evolve based on user feedback.

So go ahead, click on the Find Your Fit link today at BoulderParks-Rec.org and let us match you with the right fitness program for you – one you’re likely to enjoy and sustain.
February is Heart Health Month, and there’s no better time to spread the positive message of making the right choices to reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease while boosting and managing your overall health.

A good first step is to make some simple lifestyle changes. Boulder is nationally recognized as one of the healthiest, fittest and least-obese cities in the United States, so many in the community already are ahead of the curve. But it doesn’t hurt to remind ourselves, or spread the message and try to motivate your friends, family and neighbors to take good care of themselves.

Exercise is key to a healthy heart, even 30 minutes at a moderate pace, five days a week, will do wonders. What you eat is equally important, and your diet should be heavy in unsaturated fats found in foods such as fish, avocados and walnuts. Limit foods that have high levels of salt and saturated and trans fats, such as fatty beef, butter and cheese.

Aside from food and exercise, it’s crucial to focus on other things you put in your body – but shouldn’t. Avoid smoking and recreational drug use, and limit alcohol consumption to no more than one drink per day.

There are other steps you can take to protect your heart, including being aware of your family health history and factors that put you at risk for cardiovascular disease. Visit your doctor and create a plan to deal with any current or potential concerns.

High blood pressure or cholesterol levels, obesity, diabetes, stress and depression are all risk factors. Most can be controlled by medication, diet and exercise – and it doesn’t hurt to develop a support system and stay in touch with friends and family as a way to improve moods.

Most people who survive a cardiac emergency are assisted by a bystander. Your actions can help save a life before emergency personnel arrive on scene. If you see a teen or adult suddenly collapse, call 9-1-1 and provide hands-only CPR. Position your hands in the center of the chest and push fast and hard. Immediate CPR can double or even triple someone’s chance of survival. Visit cpr.heart.org and look under “Programs” for more information and how-to videos.

In this new year, join us by focusing on your heart and helping others to focus on theirs while committing to healthier and longer lives.

Among the wide variety of emergency situations that Boulder Fire-Rescue responds to, a high percentage are medically related (59 percent in 2016). As first responders, our crews are acutely aware that a quick response can mean the difference between life and death, and too often a heart problem is the root cause of the issue. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States, claiming more lives than all forms of cancer combined. Of the nearly 7,000 medical calls we ran in 2016, more than 1,300 of those were heart related. The silver lining to these statistics is that there are steps you can take to improve your heart health.

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FACTS ABOUT HEART DISEASE

- Heart disease (which includes stroke and other cardiovascular diseases) is the No. 1 cause of death in the United States, killing more than 600,000 people each year on average.
- Coronary heart disease is the most common type of heart disease, killing nearly 380,000 people annually.
- In the United States, someone has a heart attack every 34 seconds. Every 60 seconds, someone in the United States dies from a heart disease-related event.

Information provided by the American Heart Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Entre la amplia variedad de situaciones de emergencia que atiende el departamento de bomberos de Boulder, un alto porcentaje se relaciona con temas médicos (un 59 por ciento en 2016). Como equipos de primera respuesta, nuestras cuadrillas son muy conscientes de que una respuesta rápida puede significar la diferencia entre la vida y la muerte, y muy a menudo un problema del corazón es la raíz del problema. La enfermedad cardiaca es la principal causa de muerte de hombres y mujeres en los Estados Unidos, al cobrar más vidas que todos los tipos de cáncer combinados. De las 6,986 llamadas médicas que atendimos en 2016, 1,307 estuvieron relacionadas con el corazón. El lado bueno de estas estadísticas es que hay pasos que usted puede tomar para mejorar la salud de su corazón.

Febro es el mes de la salud del corazón, y no hay mejor momento para difundir el mensaje positivo de tomar las decisiones correctas para reducir el riesgo de enfermedades cardiovasculares, además de impulsar y manejar su salud en general.

Un buen primer paso es hacer algunos cambios simples en su estilo de vida. Boulder es reconocida nacionalmente como una de las ciudades con personas más saludables, con mejor estado físico y con menos obesidad en los Estados Unidos, y muchas personas de la comunidad ya están por delante de la curva. Pero no sobra recordarnos a nosotros mismos, o difundir el mensaje y tratar de motivar a amigos, familiares y vecinos como una manera de mejorar el estado de ánimo.

Hay otros pasos que usted puede tomar para proteger su corazón; esto incluye ser consciente de los antecedentes de salud familiar y factores que lo ponen en riesgo de enfermedad cardiovascular. Visite a su médico y cree un plan para tratar cualquier problema actual o potencial.

La mayoría de las personas que sobreviven a una urgencia cardíaca son asistidas por un transeúnte. Sus acciones pueden ayudar a salvar una vida antes de que llegue el personal de emergencia al lugar. Si usted ve repentinamente colapsar a un adolescente o a un adulto, llame al 9-1-1 y proporcione RCP solamente con las manos. Coloque las manos en el centro del pecho y empuje fuerte y rápido. La RCP inmediata puede duplicar o incluso triplicar la probabilidad de supervivencia de una persona. Visite cpr.heart.org y busque en “Programs” (programas) para obtener más información y ver videos informativos.

En este nuevo año, únase a nosotros al concentrarse en su corazón y ayudar a los demás a pensar en el de ellos, al mismo tiempo que se comprometen a tener vidas más largas y saludables.

**HECHOS SOBRE LAS ENFERMEDADES DEL CORAZÓN**

- Las enfermedades del corazón, que incluyen accidentes cerebrovasculares y otras enfermedades cardiovasculares, es la principal causa de muerte en los Estados Unidos y causa la muerte de más de 600,000 personas cada año en promedio.
- La enfermedad coronaria es el tipo más común de enfermedad cardíaca, y causa la muerte de casi 380,000 personas al año.
- En los Estados Unidos, una persona tiene un ataque cardíaco cada 34 segundos. Cada 60 segundos, alguien en los Estados Unidos muere de un evento relacionado con enfermedad del corazón.

Información proporcionada por la Asociación Estadounidense del Corazón y los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades.
Are You Ready for the Challenge?

If you’ve ever wanted to learn about the fire department and what firefighting is really like, come join us for the Boulder Fire-Rescue Citizens’ Academy

The Citizens’ Academy is a free, seven-week course that will give members of the community an overview of how their fire department operates. The purpose of the Citizens’ Academy is not to train an individual to be a firefighter, but to give participants the opportunity to have an in-depth learning experience.

Participants will receive CPR/AED training (not certification). The course is designed not only to provide information, but to also give practical safety information. There will be many hands-on opportunities.

The course is free to City of Boulder residents or those who work in the city who are 18 and older. Applicants must agree to a background check.

Elegibility: Boulder residents, or those who work in Boulder, who are age 18 or older.

Topics include
- Fire Department Operations
- Specialty Teams (Dive-Rescue, Hazardous Materials)
- Wildland Fire Risk and Mitigation
- Resiliency
- Station Tours
- Auto Extrication
- Community Outreach

Times: Monday evenings, 6-9 p.m., for seven weeks, as well as two additional Saturday drill ground days. Class starts April 2.

Applications due by March 15

Apply: Find the application at bit.ly/1Qj6Dub or call 303.441.4179.

Are You Ready for the Challenge?
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:

Sue Hendrick
Humane Society of Boulder Valley Volunteer

With six dogs of her own and one foster dog currently, Sue Hendrick certainly has a full house. So much so that it often takes her husband, Bill, a couple of days before noticing a new addition to the family. Even with that many wagging tails, providing a foster home for dogs can be bittersweet.

“It’s so important to be able to help by fostering, but it can be the hardest thing,” said Hendrick, a longtime volunteer for the Humane Society of Boulder Valley who also is involved with New Hope Cattle Dog Rescue and Soul Dog Rescue. “The first one was Billy the Kid and we had him for four days. Someone drove over from Montrose to pick him up and I just cried all the way home after he left.

“Over the years you come to terms that you are saving another animal, and with social media you can stay in touch and see them grow.”

Hendrick started out as a dog kennel assistant at HSBV in 2001 after moving back to Boulder from Illinois. Her desire to contribute to the community combined with a love of dogs to launch her volunteer efforts that quickly expanded over the years.

She has helped with spay and neuter recovery – cleaning crates, monitoring breathing and swallowing, and generally making sure the pups are comfortable and cared for – and evolved into a self-taught expert for cattle dogs with behavioral issues.

“The breed is a challenge, but it’s a rewarding challenge,” the University of Colorado Boulder graduate said. “If a heeler is brought in or picked up and not really an ideal adoption candidate because of fear or old age or something along those lines, New Hope will contact me to help with that.”

Hendrick’s caring nature extends beyond dogs and into her regular work. She is currently a caregiver at Home Instead Senior Care, where she helps clients who live at their homes with everyday chores, running errands and offering one-on-one companionship.

“For years now we have looked forward to seeing Sue in our veterinary clinic every Wednesday morning. Sue is incredibly caring and passionate, and she truly embodies the spirit of HSBV through her volunteer work,” said Kathryn Quinn, volunteer services manager. “The number of animals’ and peoples’ lives she has touched over the years is immeasurable, and we are thrilled to recognize her hard work and contribution.”

Hendrick said Boulder is just about the perfect place for her volunteer work because of the city’s culture and values.

“I’ve always had great respect for Boulder and how it treats the animals. And it’s amazing to see the amount of generous contributions that come in to the shelter. Sometimes the clinic might need a new X-ray machine or dental equipment, and people are pretty quick to help out,” Hendrick said. “I love to be able to help – it’s my passion and I really enjoy all the people.”

If you would like to nominate a Hometown Hero, please email the person’s name, contact information and a brief reason for the nomination, along with your contact information, to communitynewsletter@bouldercolorado.gov.
Neighborhood Services invites residents of Boulder to apply for funding for projects that align with the following goals:

- Increase opportunities for neighbors to meet and get to know each other
- Provide community-building resources to under-sourced neighborhoods
- Enhance community resilience through personal connections

Neighborhood Connection Grants are designed to increase opportunities for neighbors to get to know each other in fun, relaxing and positive ways, creating opportunities to communicate, collaborate and be more resilient.

WHAT’S NEW THIS YEAR?

Neighborhood Connection Grants have a greater focus on accessibility – making sure resources can reach more parts of the city. Previous grants have been distributed as reimbursements after the project was completed.

This year, most grants will be a direct disbursement, ensuring that most of the necessary resources are in hand before the project begins.

The city also created a greater variety of opportunities with dedicated funds. This will help streamline the process for some opportunities, while creating what should be a more helpful structure for others. Training sessions to support the application process also will be offered.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

National Night Out (NNO): Join the Boulder Police and Fire departments for a nationwide Block Party night on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. Host a party in your neighborhood and we will make sure you have a friendly visit from police officers and firefighters … and even City Council Members if you wish. And we’ll help pick up the tab. Neighborhood Services will reimburse up to $300 of your expenses with event registration, receipts and a simple reimbursement form.

Community Clean-up Day: Join City of Boulder on May 19 as we refresh the community for spring and summer. Gather your neighbors to clean up your alleys and streets, pitch in on yardwork or painting for elderly neighbors or turn over your community garden. We will provide gloves and trash bags, and there are opportunities for a $300 reimbursement for expenses.

Block Party Fund: Block parties are a great way to meet your neighbors! Neighborhood Services encourages block parties with a Block Party toolkit, optional information/expert visitors about city projects and up to $700 of financial support. Apply at least 10 weeks before your party date.

Spark Grants: Neighborhood Services encourages you to get creative to build community in your neighborhood with project grants up to $2,500. Spark grants support events, place-making, Community Clean-up Day projects and other ideas to bring your neighbors together. Apply at least 12 weeks before your anticipated start date.

Enhancement grants: Applications for Enhancement Grants in the range of $2,500 to $10,000 for projects provide an opportunity to focus on improving the quality of life in your neighborhood by bringing neighbors together. Enhancement grant projects could include a schedule of programs for fun and/or skill-building, place-making or pilot versions of larger ideas. Application deadline is April 4 (there will be a second deadline in August if funds remain available) with anticipated grant distributions in May and October. Project timelines may include up to 12 months from distribution.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION GRANT TRAININGS

Attend a training session to learn more about the Neighborhood Connection Grant programs and walk through the applications. Attendance of one session is required for Enhancement Grant applicants. NOTE: More training sessions opportunities will become available as we move further into 2018.

- Tuesday, Feb. 6: 6:15 to 7:45 p.m., George Reynolds Branch Library
- Wednesday, Feb. 7: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., Meadows Branch Library
- Saturday, March 17: 3:30 to 5 p.m., Boulder Public Library, Boulder Creek Room

Visit bouldercolorado.gov/neighborhoods for application materials and details about grant opportunities, block parties, the block party trailer and much more related to the Neighborhood Services program.
Meet Brenda during community office hours

Brenda Ritenour, your neighborhood liaison, is excited to bring her office out into the community with this pilot program. She will be working at the locations listed below each month and invites you to visit her to learn about city projects, share information about your neighborhood or just say hello. New locations will be added later in the year after the pilot program is evaluated.

These specific experiments are designed to be held during traditional business hours when people may be expecting to be able to reach Brenda in various ways. They are not formal meetings about any particular topic, just a chance to drop by for those who might have interest and opportunity, as well as a chance for Brenda to spend time in various neighborhoods.

If you are interested in meeting with Brenda one-on-one outside of regular business hours, please reach out. She is happy to find a time to get together to discuss whatever may be on your mind.

You also are encouraged to check in regularly with our new engagement webpage where you can find a list of opportunities to provide input on various city projects as they arise: bouldercolorado.gov/engage. Dates and times are subject to change, so please visit bouldercolorado.gov/neighborhoods for the latest information.

CALL TO ACTION!
Are you part of an HOA or Neighborhood Association? Brenda Ritenour would love to learn about your organization and connect you with city information and resources. Please reach out to her at ritenourb@bouldercolorado.gov or 303-441-1895.

SAVE THE DATE!
• April 30: What’s Up Boulder? A citywide open house and activities event.
• May 19: Community Clean-Up Day. Refresh the community for spring and summer.

Stay tuned for more information.

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS
• First Wednesday of the month from 3 to 5 p.m.: Heifer and The Hen, 5290 Arapahoe.
• Second Wednesday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Aperitivo, 5530 Spine Road in Gunbarrel
• Third Wednesday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Red Rock Coffee House, 3325 28th St.
• Fourth Thursday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Lucky’s Market Café, 695 S Broadway.
City preps for HOP bus changes

For more than two decades, Boulder’s HOP bus has served as the flagship route of the city’s Community Transit Network, connecting residents, students and visitors with the University of Colorado Boulder, 29th Street, downtown Boulder, University Hill and, beginning in 2016, Boulder Junction.

In 2018, city transportation staff are getting ready to implement service changes identified through a two-year community engagement process. Natalie Stiffler, senior transportation planner, provides answers to some frequently asked questions and previews opportunities for public input on updating the HOP brand and wayfinding system.

Q: WHAT CHANGES SHOULD PEOPLE EXPECT ON THE HOP, AND WHEN?

The HOP service that everyone knows and loves will see some major changes in the fall of 2018, with the goal of creating a more convenient and reliable system in response to community suggestions. While the HOP will continue to serve the same major activity centers, the loop route will be segmented into four separate routes that will serve Pearl Street, Ninth Street and Folsom Avenue to provide customers with more direct service to and from their destinations. There will be an increase in service on weekends, and most routes will increase in frequency and hours of service. Also, the schedule will no longer fluctuate based on when university students are in session and will instead remain consistent year-round.

Q: WHAT FACTORS LED TO THE DECISION TO MAKE THESE SERVICE CHANGES?

In 2016, city staff studied the HOP to understand how it was performing after 20-plus years of service and in a very different transportation context since its inception. We learned that it served university students very well, but that there was room for improvement in other parts of the community, such as with the addition of Boulder Junction. We also learned that people who use the HOP every day to get to work or make other trips would benefit from changes in the service to make it more reliable during the week and on weekends.

Q: WILL THE BUS STILL BE NAMED THE HOP?

The goal is to keep the overall HOP name, though there may be new ways of branding the different route segments. We want to leave room for creativity and new ideas too. Over the next few months, we will be working with the public on naming, branding and communicating the service changes. Anyone who would like to be involved in this process can contact me at StifflerN@bouldercolorado.gov.

Q: DOES THE CITY HAVE PLANS TO CHANGE OTHER BUS ROUTES?

The 2014 Transportation Master Plan, developed with input from the community, guides changes to the transit system. Long-term, there are plans to expand HOP service from downtown to Flatiron Business Park, and along Folsom Avenue connecting CU and north Boulder. All other bus routes in Boulder are primarily operated by RTD, and RTD reviews and revises service in Boulder based on route performance and agency priorities.

Q: HOW CAN THE PUBLIC STAY UP TO DATE ON SERVICE CHANGES AND OFFER INPUT?

Please visit bouldercolorado.gov/transportation and rtd-denver.com/servicechanges to stay informed, or contact me directly. We’ll be working hard to make sure the community is aware of the upcoming changes throughout the summer before they take effect and, again, I encourage people to get involved in the process to update the branding and wayfinding.
Concerned about speeding on your street?

The Neighborhood Speed Management Program offers a variety of tools to help slow down speeding traffic on neighborhood streets.

Visit bouldercolorado.gov/transportation to find out if your street is eligible, read the program guidelines and fill out an online application.

Applications due April 27.

BOULDER CONE ZONES

For a map of the latest updates on several current and upcoming City of Boulder construction projects that may affect traffic and parking in the city, be sure to check BoulderConeZones.net, Please note that start and completion dates could change due to factors such as weather.

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 work zones marked by cones, barrels, barricades and fencing.

Join us for the ninth annual Winter Walk and Bike Week. This year, Boulder will be participating in the international Winter Bike to Work Day challenge. Bundle up and help put Boulder on the global stage.

EVENTS

Feb. 5, 7:45 to 9 a.m.: Kick-off Walk and Ride
Join community leaders and fellow walk and bike commuters to celebrate the start of Winter Walk and Bike Week. Meet on the west side of the Municipal Building, 1777 W. Broadway.

Feb. 7, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.: Heads Up Safety Education Outreach

Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m.: Morning Winter Walk 360
Feb. 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Winter Bike Commuting 101
Feb. 9, 7 to 9 a.m.: Winter Bike to Work Day!
Join thousands of other cyclists in Boulder as we compete with cities around the world to get the most community members to bike to work.

Feb. 9, 5 to 7 p.m.: Winter Bike to Work Day Reception
Feb. 10, 4:30 to 6 p.m.: Light Up the Night: Walk and Bike Ride
Feb. 11: Bike to Brunch
Feb. 11, 9 a.m.: LoBo T rail Walk

Visit bouldercolorado.gov/goboulder/winter-walk-and-bike-week for more details about the events, including locations and winter walking and riding tips.
Film festival back for 14th year

Entering its 14th year, the city-sponsored Boulder International Film Festival once again will bring tens of thousands of people to town for four days of feature films, documentaries, shorts and much more. Known as BIFF, the festival attracts filmmakers, movie enthusiasts, industry leaders and fans of all ages from all over the world.

“There really is something for everyone at the festival in addition to the best films that are out there at the moment,” said Kathy Beeck, BIFF’s director. “The thing we enjoy most about putting on the festival is the sense of community and the people that come out and offer support. We have such a talented pool of volunteers, and about 20,000 people come out every year to go to the great films. I don’t think every festival has that type of support.”

Kathy and sister Robin Beeck, BIFF’s executive director and a critically acclaimed documentary filmmaker, are both graduates of Fairview High School and the University of Colorado Boulder. The Beecks launched the first BIFF in 2005, quickly gaining a reputation as a must-attend event and earning the distinction as one of the “25 Coolest Film Festivals” in the world by MovieMaker Magazine.

Attendees can expect to see some of the top new and unknown (for now) films available. There is an exhaustive selection process, with a committee spending half the year poring over roughly 2,000 movies before settling on the 50 or 60 that make the final cut.

“We are very picky with what we select. We want only great, quality films,” Kathy Beeck said.

This year’s festival will add a new twist with a program that springs to life. Attendees can hover their smartphone over a picture or ad in the program and view a trailer or special deal. There also will be a little healthy competition when Boulder takes on Denver in CineCHEF 2018. Eight top chefs will create film-inspired dishes that attendees can taste and vote on.

“BIFF has been a cornerstone cultural event in Boulder for 14 years,” said Matt Chasansky, manager of the city’s Office of Arts and Culture. “The Beeck sisters are responsible for a great film festival that has grown from beloved by local movie buffs to an internationally respected cultural destination. Interesting to me is that, while the other festivals like Sundance and Cannes are for the movie industry, BIFF continues to be a place to celebrate the simple act of enjoying great cinema … and sharing it with others.”
Did you know that Boulder has the third-largest concentration of artists in the country, according to a recent study conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts? The city is home to approximately 3,000 artists, not to mention more than 100 public artworks, 150 arts organizations, and 50 arts and culture venues. From skilled buskers on Pearl Street to internationally acclaimed performing arts organizations, Boulder has arts for you.

You’re invited to help celebrate the artists that create the rich diversity of our cultural landscape at the fifth annual Boulder Arts Week from March 30 through April 7.

“Artists are at the core of who we are as a cultural destination,” said Mary Ann Mahoney, executive director of the Boulder Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (CVB). “It is the creativity of the artists who live and work here that allow for the mix of performances, exhibitions, festivals and public art that our visitors expect. We at the CVB promote this cultural vitality by telling the world about the work of our world-class artists.”

Boulder Arts Week is the city’s only large-scale, inclusive celebration of our community’s vibrant arts and cultural offerings, promoting and celebrating Boulder’s thriving creativity. By attending an art walk, exhibition, performance, reading, talk or workshop during the week, you honor the city’s excellent artists for the vital role they play in Boulder’s vibrancy.

“Through Boulder’s Community Cultural Plan, a clear and exciting roadmap has been laid for many exciting opportunities,” said Mandy Vink, the city’s public art administrator. “Those opportunities encourage creativity, contribute to a sense of place, spark conversation, tell our shared stories and capture our moment in time, foster the enjoyment of diverse works of art and are thoughtfully designed contributions to the urban environment of our vibrant city. None of this would be possible without artists helping author these experiences.”

Last year, more than 300 events were hosted during Boulder Arts Week by a broad range of artists and organizations, large and small. In 2018, the tradition continues with a jam-packed week of arts events of all types.

“The Dairy Arts Center will present hundreds of performances, exhibitions, and films this year,” said Melissa Fathman, executive director of the Dairy. “All these rich, edifying moments and the joy of gathering together and sharing the experiences, all of that personal and community benefit starts with the creative act of an artist.”

For more information, visit Boulderartsweek.org and check out the event calendar. Interested in participating or volunteering? Contact artsweekboulder@gmail.com.
Creating affordable homeownership opportunities is a major goal for the City of Boulder. The city’s Permanently Affordable Homes Program creates ownership opportunities for households of low, moderate and middle incomes. Qualifying for the program does not guarantee that a home is available; the current demand for homes is higher than homes for sale. However, if you want to purchase in the future you will need to start by taking these steps.

**Step 1: Attend Orientation**
Find out if this program is right for you. Orientation will help potential buyers understand the eligibility requirements, application process, and their rights and responsibilities as an owner in the program. A one-hour class is offered in person or through a live webinar once per month, or a 35-minute version is available online. You can also reference the income and asset limits online to see if you qualify.

**Step 2: Contact a Lender**
See what you can afford. Choose a lender, submit the required documents and receive a mortgage loan pre-approved. The city requires a pre-approval letter and a copy of a loan application as part of the program application.

**Step 3: Submit an Application**
Complete the Boulder County Homeownership Programs Common Application. The application will specify what supporting documentation you need to submit. An application will not be complete until all documents listed in the application have been received and will not be eligible for a selection process until complete.

**Step 4: Attend the Homebuyer Education Class**
You cannot go under contract on an affordable home without completing the Homebuyer Education class. The best time to take this class is while you’re looking at homes. The class will provide information about the home purchase and closing process. Most buyers take the class through Boulder County’s program, but you can take it anywhere in the state.

**Step 5: Shop for a Home**
Now it’s time to start looking! Households that qualify for the Permanently Affordable Homes Program should look at the list of currently available homes on the city website. A real estate agent can help set up showings, and open houses will be listed on the website.

**Step 6: After You Apply**
Finally, the preliminary program certification is valid for six months and applicants may recertify for free. The only item applicants can update during a period of certification is a change of address. Changes to income, assets and other household demographics will be adjusted at the end of the six months if an applicant recertifies.

Once an applicant has received final certification, they are eligible to purchase/close on the home. At closing, buyers will sign documents prepared by the City of Boulder, including the covenant. To prepare for closing, buyers will meet with a Boulder staff member approximately one week before closing to review these documents.

For details and resources related to all of the above information, visit [bouldercolorado.gov/homeownership](http://bouldercolorado.gov/homeownership). For questions, call 303-441-3157, ext. 2, or email [homeownership@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:homeownership@bouldercolorado.gov).
New plan for old Robb’s Music spot

After the door to Robb’s Boulder Music closed for good in 2017, developers began eyeing the property at 30th and Bluff streets for a boutique hotel development. Plans changed, however, after a Boulder-based developer, familiar with the city’s immediate need for a homeless services navigation center, worked out a plan to help meet this need in the near-term and provide up to 50 affordable housing units in the future.

The city’s Division of Housing staff worked with Boulder-based developers Don Altman, Roger Grow, Michael Bosma, Robert Haas and Jay Hebb to purchase this site and address several needs of the city.

The Division of Housing, along with the Human Services Department and the local non-profit Bridge House, worked to develop a plan for the site that meets the needs of the new Homelessness Strategy approved by City Council in June 2017. The existing building will be leased to Bridge House for the next two years where they will operate the new homeless services, including Coordinated Entry—a one-stop shop to access services for adults experiencing homelessness and Path to Home Navigation Services, for those needing short-term assistance.

Following this interim use, construction on the affordable units will begin and is expected to house a variety of households and incomes, from previously homeless individuals to households earning up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). Allison Management, a local affordable housing developer, is also associated with the project and helped facilitate the transaction.

THE IMMEDIATE NEED
The homeless navigation center is a major component of the homelessness strategy approved by City Council in June 2017. Its purpose is to act as the first point of contact and evaluation for homeless adults seeking services in Boulder. The location will serve two functions.

First, staff will work with all clients seeking services to determine if their needs require long-term assistance or if their barriers to housing can be resolved quickly. Clients who require short-term solutions will be able to stay at this new location once renovations are complete. Clients who require long-term shelter and services will be referred to Boulder Shelter for the Homeless located in north Boulder.

Coordinated Entry and Navigation Services will operate at this location for about two years. That may seem like a short amount of time, but it allows the property owner and developer to apply for competitive tax credits that could pay for up to 70 percent of the construction costs for the future housing development. It also provides time to assess what the long-term needs, including a permanent location, will be for the new system of services.

PERMANENTLY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
Developing housing is expensive. Economically, a new building project must sell or rent for an amount that covers its building and running costs as well as support debt coverage. To make that equation work for affordable housing construction, a subsidy is usually needed to lower its total cost for construction. The city often helps to subsidize affordable housing by contributing the land needed or providing financial assistance through the Affordable Housing Fund.

A tool to leverage the city’s investment is the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), which the developers at the Robb’s site hope to receive. Potential residents for these estimated 50 units would likely be households earning up to 60 percent AMI or transitioning from homelessness. These individuals may also qualify for housing vouchers. At the end of the two-year lease, a new location will be selected for the Coordinated Entry services based on the future needs of the program. The City of Boulder’s commitment to innovation led staff to negotiate this unique and mutually beneficial outcome for the Human Services Department, Division of Housing, Bridge House and local developers. As a result the city will recognize a more supportive homeless services system and an increase in affordable housing.
For nearly 120 years, generations of Boulder residents have created an innovative public land legacy in building the city’s 45,630-acre open space system. Today, City of Boulder open space protects diverse natural areas and connects visitors to some of Colorado’s most iconic public lands. Looking ahead, changing trends will likely shape future city open space management and how community members connect with the special land around them.

The city’s Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Department recently began a two-year effort to create an inclusive, community-based Open Space and Mountain Parks Master Plan to address important management topics. With your help, we will ensure that current and future generations can enjoy and protect city open space and establish an integrated approach to steward city open space over the next decade and beyond.

**WHY DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN?**
For decades, Boulder has worked to preserve and improve its open space through a series of management plans. However, we live in a changing community, and current and future trends require a more comprehensive approach. For example, there is less land available for acquisition in the Boulder Valley. One .15-percent open space sales tax increment that funds open space maintenance and acquisitions will sunset at the end 2019, while another .33-percent sales tax increment will decrease to .22 percent at the end of 2018 and then to .10 percent at the end of 2034. Population along the Front Range is growing, and increasing visitor use and carrying capacity are topics that open space agencies are beginning to address. At the same time, climate change and invasive species are affecting OSMP’s ability to conserve important landscapes, and resilience to wildfires and flooding is a focus for the city and other communities along the Front Range. We also recognize the need to be more inclusive, welcoming all who live in our community.

In addressing these topics, the OSMP Master Plan will create a community-supported management plan for the future and satisfy citywide expectations that master plans have been developed to guide service delivery.

**OUR LANDS. OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.**
Help our community and future generations enjoy and protect the land

**LEARN THE LATEST ABOUT THE MASTER PLAN**
- Visit [OSMPMasterPlan.org](http://OSMPMasterPlan.org)
- Follow OSMP on Facebook: [facebook.com/boulderosmp](http://facebook.com/boulderosmp)
- Follow OSMP on Twitter: [twitter.com/boulderosmp](http://twitter.com/boulderosmp)
Later in February, Open Space and Mountain Parks will release a “System Overview Report,” which will provide an easy-to-read foundation for community members to learn how the city stewards their land and how people enjoy city open space. The report will be available at OSMPMasterPlan.org.

Our community has a deep connection with city open space. We want to know what you value about the OSMP system – and also what you hope for and are concerned about for the future. Your voice will help create master plan focus areas and supporting strategies, which will be developed and refined further through additional community engagement efforts.

The first window of engagement for this planning effort opened in late January and will close Friday, March 30. During this period, please share your feedback with staff on the trails. Provide your comments online. And participate in community programs, such as guided hikes, to share what you think.

Staff will host an open house and family-friendly event in mid- to late-March. There will be more opportunities made available for the community to engage with this effort over the next two years, so there will be plenty of opportunities and time to ensure your voice is heard.

WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN?

The Open Space and Mountain Parks Master Plan will be a visionary document. It will help Boulder:

- Focus Open Space and Mountain Parks’ operations around key management topics and help establish measures of success.
- Define and prioritize strategies that will help OSMP fulfill open space purposes as defined in the City Charter.
- Build community understanding that compromises and a balanced approach are important to develop management priorities that are inclusive and equitable.

WHAT WON’T BE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN?

The Master Plan will not include site-specific recommendations, such as the exact placement of trails or facilities or allowable activities or visitor-use levels for specific locations.

Updated or new plans that emerge after the Master Plan will provide more specific, on-the-ground guidance. The Open Space and Mountain Parks Master Plan will not recommend changes to open space purposes in the City Charter.
Most people prefer not to think about what goes down the drains in their homes. But for Public Works/Utilities staff in charge of sanitary sewer maintenance, getting wastewater to the treatment facility without any problems is essential.

With the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Program, city staff are working with contractors to renew the city’s infrastructure by installing structural liners inside of aging sanitary sewer pipes. The process involves placing a liner into the sewer, inflating it to fit the shape of the existing sewer and then hardening it into a new solid pipe inside of the existing one. The process costs about a quarter of the traditional approach of excavating and replacing the old pipes with new ones, and it takes about half a day, instead of multiple days, to complete.

The 2013 flood was a stark reminder to many Boulder residents of the critical importance of the city’s infrastructure. Inspections performed after the floods revealed that much of the city’s clay and concrete sewers – which account for 65 percent of all sewers – were at or near the end of their useful life.

Spurred by lessons from the flood and the inspection results, City Council approved a recommended wastewater rate increase that went into effect in 2015, providing additional funding and accelerating the timeline for sewer rehabilitation.

“At 2013 funding levels, it would have taken about 90 years to line the entire system. With the rate and corresponding budget increase in 2015, we’re going to be able to do it in 20 years. This will greatly improve the resiliency of the system,” explained Pieter Beyer, the civil engineer in charge of the project.

In 2017, the program resulted in the rehabilitation of all remaining clay and concrete sewers in the downtown Boulder area. Rehabilitation will move to neighborhoods around the downtown area in 2018, with a focus on portions of the Chautauqua, University Hill and Mapleton Hill neighborhoods.

For more information on the program and what to expect if sewers are rehabilitated in your neighborhood, visit bouldercolorado.gov/water.
New event space on University Hill

City leaders and community members gathered in November to celebrate a redesigned meeting space on University Hill. The Hill Event Street is a half-block of the Hill Commercial Area at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue that has been re-designed to accommodate small outdoor events and provide landscaped, attractive seating space. It was funded by the Community, Culture and Safety Tax adopted by Boulder voters in 2014.

Design features include a low curb to make the space easier to navigate; a reduced grade and handicapped parking space to improve accessibility; and decorative lights to enliven the space for night-time visitors.

The small scale of the Event Street is part of the design. “Last summer we debuted a family-friendly event series called Summer Sundays on the Hill,” said Sarah Wieben-son, the city’s Hill community development coordinator. “The intimate setting will work well for small children and their families, if the series returns this summer.”

The Hill Boulder business association will assist with permitting, catering and other needs for community organizations interested in using the Event Street. “We see the new event space as a way to welcome the broader community to experience the best of what the Hill has to offer,” said Karen Gall, a local business owner and member of The Hill Boulder board.

For information on Hill events, go to thehillboulder.com/hill-events.

An update on Alpine Balsam

In December 2017, the City of Boulder and Boulder Community Health (BCH) agreed to extend the hospital’s lease for the properties located at Alpine and Balsam streets. The lease, which extends to May 31, 2019, will enable BCH to continue providing services to the community as construction at its Foothills campus is completed. BCH currently occupies the main hospital building, medical pavilion, surface parking lots and a portion of the parking garage.

In January 2018, the area plan process began for the redevelopment of the Alpine-Balsam site. City staff shared the proposed area plan process for the project with City Council on Jan. 9 and received support to move forward. The area plan process will continue through 2018 and into 2019, and will include many opportunities for community members to share their input and shape outcomes on topics ranging from activities, land uses, parking and transportation to massing, scale and intensity of future development.

Please check out the project website at bouldercolorado.gov/planning/AlpineBalsam to read the Jan. 9 council memo, learn more about the project and learn about upcoming events.
The infiltration of Boulder’s ash trees by the emerald ash borer (EAB) beetle has had a major impact since the invasive insect was first detected here in 2013, and the situation is expected to take a turn for the worse in the next few years. There has been an explosion in the number of EABs chewing on ash trees around the city, and those infested trees are dying much faster than in previous years.

“The spread and population of EAB and the rate at which trees decline will be exponentially higher than in years past,” said Kathleen Alexander, city forester for Boulder. “Residents should expect to see a higher number of ash removals in coming years on both public and private property.”

There are as many as 70,000 ash trees in Boulder, and the vast majority live on private property. It’s important that residents and private property owners inventory all trees on their land to identify the ash and take steps to assess the health of those trees. Many in the community already have taken such measures in recent years, but there is a greater urgency to evaluate or reevaluate in 2018.

WHAT’S DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

Simply put, there’s been an exponential rise in the EAB population. The adult beetles nibble on the leaves and do little harm, but it’s the larvae that inflict the real damage. In this immature stage, the larvae feed on the inner bark of ash (the vascular system) and disrupt the tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients. With the rise in EAB population, there is a more severe impact on a tree’s health.

In the past few years, a tree with EAB would show signs of decline after two to three years before eventually dying off over the next year or two. Now, an infested tree may die within a year.

WHAT TO DO WITH ASH ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

If you have ash on your private property and have not taken steps to treat or remove the trees, take action right away. 1. Treatment: If a tree is currently healthy and showing few symptoms of EAB, there are effective treatment options. Pesticide treatments must continue indefinitely to save the tree, which is costly and can have
EAB AND ASH TREE FACTS

- EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America since its discovery in Michigan in the early 2000s.
- Boulder was the first city in Colorado to detect EAB, and Colorado is the western-most location of the invasive pest in North America.
- Researchers have found varying degrees of resistance among ash species, but almost 100 percent mortality in green ash and white ash, the most prevalent ash species in Colorado. EAB will eventually kill green and white ash that are not treated with pesticides, no matter the size or age of the tree.
- High EAB populations can kill a mature tree in as quickly as a year or two.
- EAB is currently found in 31 states, as well as the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.
- Woodpeckers ripping the bark off an ash tree are a good indication of an ash heavily infested with EAB, and a sign that the tree should be removed as soon as possible.

Environmental impacts. Costs must be weighed however against the ultimate tree removal cost and the loss of environmental services such as shade and energy savings provided by the ash trees. It is strongly recommended that residents hire a licensed tree care company to perform the work to their ash trees, and the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is prohibited on public property and should be avoided on private property. Late spring is the ideal time to treat EAB, just after ash trees put on leaves. Be aware, any ash that has yet to be treated almost certainly is infested by EAB. All ash trees must either be treated or will face eventual removal.

2. Removal: If the crown of an untreated ash tree appears thinner than what’s expected or has large areas of dieback, that’s a sign of an unhealthy tree that should be inspected by an arborist. If you don’t plan to treat your ash, have it removed by a licensed arborist before it dies from EAB. Once ash trees are killed from EAB, they dry out quickly and start to fail. Arborists must use specialized equipment to remove dead ash trees and tree removal costs rise significantly. Remember that all companies removing any tree species in Boulder must be licensed through Boulder Forestry.

If you have an ash removed on your property, don’t forget to replace it. Trees provide huge environmental, social and economic services to our community. Boulder Forestry will be hosting a tree seedling give-away and tree sale later this spring to help with your replacement plan.

In response to the threats to Boulder’s urban tree canopy including the EAB infestation, climate change, and individual severe weather events, Boulder Forestry is developing an Urban Forest Strategic Plan (UFSP). The plan will make recommendations to maintain our urban tree canopy through improved urban tree management and opportunities for public involvement.

For more information about EAB, including tips to identify ash trees, advice for treatment or tree removal, or would like to know more about the UFSP, tree sale or how to help, check out the website at BoulderForestry.org. If you have further questions, contact Boulder Forestry at 303-441-4406.
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 2017. 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.

In keeping with Boulder’s sustainability values, the paper used for this newsletter contains recycled content and the printer is FSC certified, which means they follow standards required by the Forest Stewardship Council. Please recycle this newsletter after use.