

the ArvadaReport

February - March 2026



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Engage with City Council

Generally, Business meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays; Workshops: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.
For information on attending or viewing a Council meeting, visit **the City website**.



Mayor
Lauren Simpson
720-961-3779
lsimpson@arvada.org



Councilmember At-Large
Sharon Davis
720-450-4825
sdavis@arvada.org



Councilmember At-Large
Michael P. Griffith
225-241-1911
mgriffith@arvada.org



Councilmember District 1
Mayor Pro Tem
Randy Moorman
720-772-6651
rmoorman@arvada.org



Councilmember District 2
Shawna Ambrose
970-425-3060
sambrose@arvada.org



Councilmember District 3
Rebecka Lovisone
720-515-9484
rlovisone@arvada.org



Councilmember District 4
Bob Fifer
303-929-4278
bfifer@arvada.org

Connect with Us

Emergency

Non-emergency Police

Animal Management

Water/Sewer Breaks (24/7)

City Department Directory

9-1-1

303-980-7300

720-898-6850

720-898-7070

720-898-7000

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Listen to the podcast at **the City website**

Search for additional information on our website at **the City website**.

The Arvada Report is a newsletter published by the Arvada City Manager's Office, **720-898-7500**, **City of Arvada, 8101 Ralston Road, Arvada, Colorado 80002**. It is distributed to all residences and businesses in the city. The City of Arvada holds the ownership rights and copyrights in the design and articles contained in **the Arvada Report**. Articles may only be reproduced with the express permission of the City of Arvada.
Editorial Staff: Rachael Kuroiwa, Liz Johnson. Graphic Design: Steve Milke, Kelly Flink. Photography: Arvada Media Services.

A Future Ready Arvada

The City's strategic focus in 2026

The City of Arvada is continually working to enhance the residential experience in the city through ongoing strategic goal planning. The City Council and leadership team consistently evaluate progress toward goals, listen to community concerns, and stay up-to-date on economic shifts and state/federal legislation, to help ensure that Arvada continues to be a desirable place to live, work, and play.

In recent months, to ensure a solid start to the new year, the City team has worked diligently to assess Arvada's current state and community experience to determine improvements. After a lengthy review of the City's most recent community survey, diving deep into City Council's strategic plan and making first-hand observations in the field, the team determined and funded three specific goals to focus on in 2026 to ensure a **"Future Ready Arvada,"** an Arvada that residents are excited to call home.



Priority 1: Technology

The first goal is focused on continuing to bolster cyber security and hardening the City's technological network from cyber attack. Unfortunately, in today's world, cyber attacks are becoming more frequent, which we have seen occur even in the Denver metropolitan area. In order to keep everyone safe and to keep our systems functioning smoothly without pause, cyber security must be a top priority.

Priority 2: Homelessness

The second goal is to focus on addressing homelessness with a concentrated effort on collaborating with organizations that specialize in addressing homelessness, as well as with our regional partners. More specifically, the goal is to support 65 homeless individuals that frequent Olde Town Arvada into housing outcomes by the end of 2026.

Priority 3: Pavement

The third goal will be focused on making improvements to Arvada's streets. Specifically, the City will resurface 75 lane miles by the end of the year, which will nearly double the average number of repaved lane miles completed in a year through the program. Achieving this goal will require significant resources (funding, time, staffing). While this is only about 5% of the road network, when consistent, this increased investment can improve our roads over time.

Together, these three priorities position Arvada to address immediate needs while strengthening the City's long-term resilience. By investing now and coordinating efforts across departments and partners, the City is taking deliberate steps to ensure Arvada remains a safe, stable, and well-managed community into 2026 and beyond.

Ask Arvada is improving!

We're making updates to Ask Arvada, the City's online system for submitting questions and reporting concerns.



What's new

- **Improved, more user-friendly interface** that's easier to navigate
- **Interactive map feature** that shows what's already been reported and where
- **Easier access** to your submissions through your user account
- **New mobile app**, available on Google Play and the App Store
- **Improved reliability** for faster, more consistent service

What's not changing

- Ask Arvada is still the place to report concerns like potholes, graffiti, code violations, and other issues or concerns in the community
- The system remains available on any web browser, in addition to the new mobile app

What you'll need to know

To submit and track requests, you will need to **create an Ask Arvada account**. You only need to do this once. Creating an account helps us provide better updates and a more personalized experience. Once you make your account, you will be able to easily access and track all your submissions in one place.

How to get started

To submit a question or report a concern, visit **the City website** or download the Ask Arvada mobile app.

New Danny Kendrick Park East playground opens

After more than two years of planning and construction, the new playground at Danny Kendrick Park East officially opened to the public in January, bringing fresh, inclusive play opportunities to families in central Arvada.

Located at 11960 West 70th Way along the Ralston Creek Trail, the upgraded play area replaces the older playground that was removed in spring 2024 as part of the City's sanitary sewer line replacement project.

Matching the community's vision was central to the design. In summer 2023, the City's Parks and Urban Design team asked community members to share their preferences through a Speak Up Arvada survey, which helped shape the final playground layout and features.

The new playground needed to be located away from the sanitary sewer line and outside the Ralston Creek floodplain. The height of the play elements was also carefully considered to avoid obstructing views for residents who live across from the park.

Families and caregivers are invited to enjoy the new space, explore its features, and make fresh memories at Danny Kendrick Park East. The expanded play area contributes to the park's role as a cherished local gathering spot along walking and bike paths near Ralston Creek.

The City greatly appreciates the community's patience and understanding throughout this entire project!



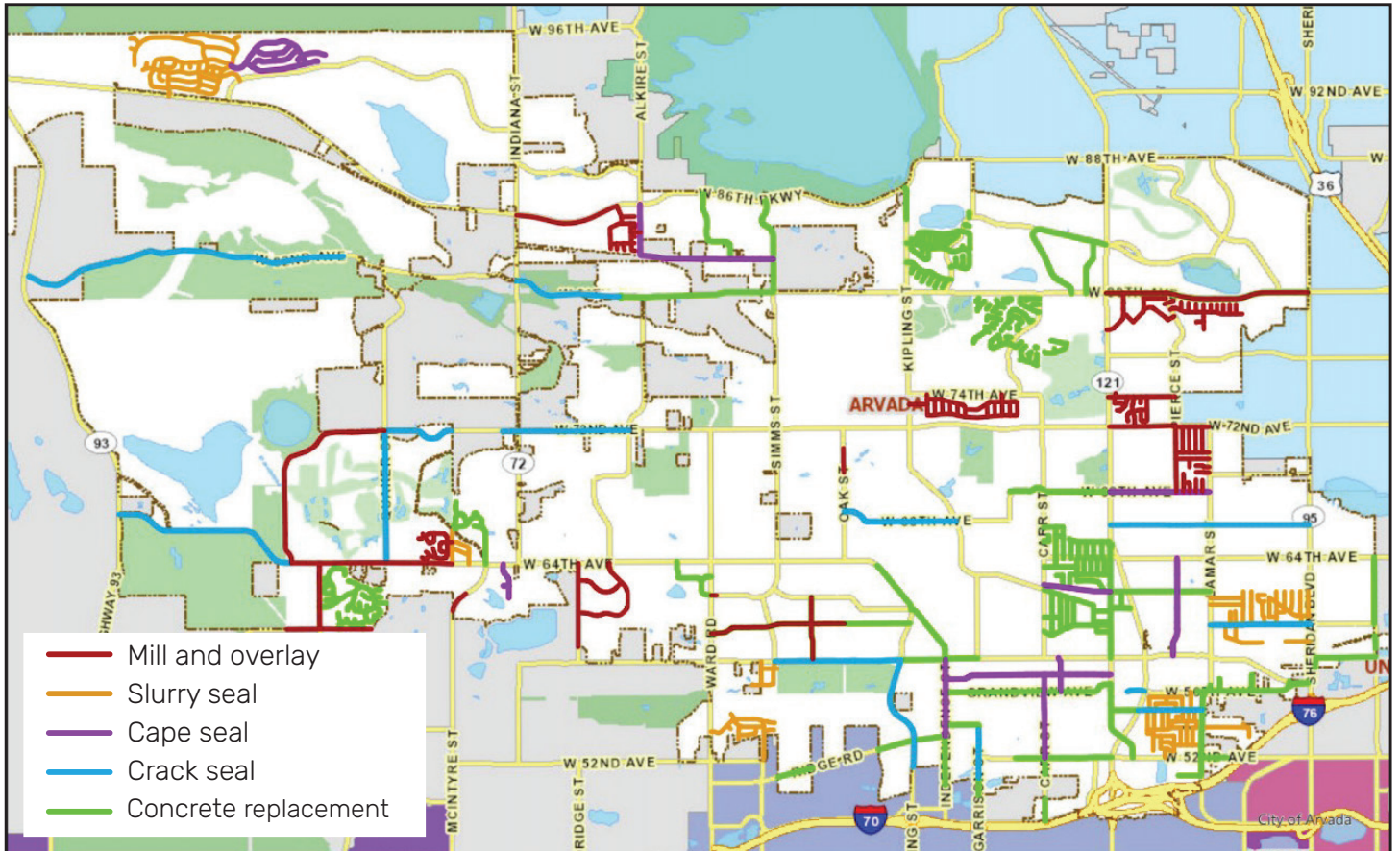
The new playground includes:

- Inclusive spinner, play bouncer, and double bobble rider – bringing kids of all abilities together
- Telluride traverse boulders with ladder bridge and ramp nets
- Embankment slide and hill climber grips that connect the terraced play areas
- Log crawl, mushroom steppers, painted turtle sculpture, and play panels
- Poured-in-place safety surfacing
- Bike racks and a variety of seating options that view into the park

2026 Pavement Program proposed work areas

Each year, the Pavement Program performs a variety of work across the City to maintain and repave roads. The program strategy balances low-cost maintenance to keep roads in good condition with more costly repavement work on deteriorating roads. On average, every \$1 spent on preventative maintenance can save \$4 to \$5 in future repair costs. Learn more about funding the program at [the City website](#).

The map below shows work proposed in 2026. These areas may be adjusted based on available budget or other construction conflicts, including weather. View the map online and learn more about work in 2026 at [the City website](#).



Transportation System Plan complete with over 70 projects identified

The City's first Transportation System Plan was completed in late 2025. This plan provides a 20-year roadmap for improvements to Arvada's transportation network for all modes of travel, including walking, biking, driving, and transit. Plan development included two rounds of community feedback, technical analysis, and existing conditions findings. This process yielded 71 projects with 28 of those ranking as high or mid-high priority. Going forward, the City can use this framework to make strategic decisions about infrastructure improvements that keep our community connected, safe, and moving forward. More details, including a summary of the plan and priority projects identified for potential infrastructure investments are available at [the City website](#).



Parks partnerships support food access

When people think about the City of Arvada’s Parks Department, they often picture the maintenance of our playgrounds, trails, and open spaces. Less visible – but still meaningful – is the department’s role in supporting local food access and hands-on education through partnerships with community-based organizations.

Rather than running gardens or farms directly, the Parks Department partners with organizations that have the expertise, resources, and community connections to do this work well. The City’s role is to provide clear agreements that define responsibilities and public benefit while ensuring consistent stewardship of public land.

This partnership model allows community organizations to focus on growing food, teaching skills and serving residents, while the City provides oversight and long-term care of park and open space properties.

How the partnership model works

Across Arvada, the Parks Department enters into formal agreements with select nonprofit and community organizations to use City-owned parks or open space land for food production and education. These agreements help create consistency across sites by clearly defining responsibilities and public benefit.

Under this model, the City provides access to public land through a lease agreement that establishes requirements for land use, safety, and stewardship. Partner organizations are responsible for the rest. Their roles often include managing daily operations, coordinating volunteers and participants, and providing food access as well as educational opportunities.



Majestic View Farm is run by FrontLine Farming and is one of four community organizations the City partners with.

This approach allows community members to benefit from a wide range of programs without the City operating gardens or farms directly.

These partnerships benefit the community by providing residents with access to space, resources, and education to grow their own food – opportunities that may not otherwise be available. Many of the organizations also support food sharing or donation efforts, helping connect locally grown produce to people and families throughout the city.

The Parks Department currently has a lease agreement with four different organizations throughout the City. While some are similar, each has a unique purpose and mission.

Current food access partners

Arvada Community Garden

Located a block south from Ralston Central Park at 9195 W. 57th Ave., Arvada Community Garden is run by the Arvada Gardeners. The group manages garden plots, classes and volunteer activities.

the Arvada Gardeners website

Majestic View Farm

Located just south of the Majestic View Nature Center at 7000 Garrison St., this farm operates through a partnership with FrontLine Farming. The site focuses on food production, education, and responsible land stewardship.

the Frontline Farming website

Rose Roots Garden

Located at the Hills at Standley Lake Park at 8412 Alkire St., Rose Roots Community Garden is part of the Denver Urban Gardens network. The garden provides shared growing spaces, education, and opportunities to donate fresh produce.

the Rose Roots Gardens website

Hummingbird Farm

Located just south of Rose Roots/Hills at Standley Lake Park, Hummingbird Farm is operated by GoFarm. The site supports beginning farmers through hands-on training while increasing local food production.

the Go Farm website

Winterfest returns to Olde Town Square Feb. 28

Music, movement, and cultural traditions take center stage as Arvada Winterfest returns to Olde Town Square on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026. The free, family-friendly event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the heart of Olde Town Arvada.

Now in its eighth year, Winterfest celebrates the many cultures and traditions that make up the Arvada community. Since launching in 2018, the event has grown into one of the City's most popular winter gatherings, drawing community members of all ages to Olde Town for a day of art, performances, and seasonal activities.



For the second straight year, Winterfest will be held at Olde Town Square. The layout will feel familiar to anyone who attends the summer Second Saturday Concert Series or street festivals, transforming the square into a hub of activity in the middle of the winter.

Throughout the day, attendees can explore a variety of free activities and performances, including:

- Live cultural and interactive performances from the Colorado Asian Cultural Heritage Center, Fiesta Colorado Dance Company, the Colorado African Innovation and Culture Center, and more!
- Live ice sculpting demonstrations
- Hands-on art demonstrations
- Craft vendors and food trucks offering local goods and warm bites

Getting there

Parking in Olde Town will be limited during the event. Attendees are encouraged to use the Olde Town parking hub or consider walking, biking or using other alternative transportation options.

Learn more

For a full schedule of Winterfest activities and performances, visit [the City website](#).

Upcoming events in 2026

Sunday, April 12

ARVADA KITE FESTIVAL

Stenger Sports Complex



Saturday, June 6

ARVADA SUMMERFEST

Ralston Park Addition
(W. 64th Ave. and Simms St.)



Friday, July 4

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Stenger Sports Complex



To get updates on our upcoming events, and for information on how you can volunteer, follow us on social media or visit [the Arvada Festivals website](#)



@ARVADAFESTIVALS

ARVADAFESTIVALS.COM



MAJESTIC VIEW NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center's public hours vary.

See the **Majestic View Nature Center website** for hours and full calendar or call **720-898-7405**.

Thanks to a grant from SCFD, we are now open on Saturdays.

720-898-7405

majesticviewnc.org

Instagram:
@majesticviewnature

7030 Garrison Street
Arvada, CO 80004

Online pre-registration required for all classes. **More programs available online!**

Adult Classes

Birding for Beginners

Fridays, Feb. 6 and March 6, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Adults, \$5. Locations will vary, register in advance to receive location.

Designed for those who are new to birding, this leisurely walk will help you build your identification skills.

Intermediate Birding

Fridays, Feb. 13 and March 13, from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Adults, \$5. Locations will vary, register in advance to receive location.

If you're looking to deepen your birding skills and go beyond the basics of identification, join us as we go looking for birds throughout Arvada.

Meditation and Mindfulness in Nature: Mind Yoga

First Sunday of the month, from 1 to 2 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. Adults, \$10.

Join a certified Mind Yoga instructor to practice mindfulness and connection with nature.

Volunteer Open House

Saturday March 7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Must be 13 or older to volunteer.

Have a green thumb? Want to learn more about animals or show off your naturalist skills? Looking to meet new people and get involved? We need your help! Join the Majestic View family and share your talents and passion with your community.

Drop by the Nature Center to learn about the various volunteer opportunities and meet our current amazing volunteers. No need to sign up.

Spring Renewal: Equinox Nature Program

Friday March 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. Adults, \$5.

Indulge yourself with an evening of tea, ceremony, and intention-setting, followed by a healing bonfire to celebrate the change in seasons and personal growth.

Mocktail Art and Sip: Dyed Paper Flower Bouquets

Thursday, March 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. Adults, \$20.

Join us for an evening of seasonally inspired mocktails and hands-on creating. This month we will be learning how to create watercolor-dyed paper flowers step by step to create a variety of flowers.

Kids Classes

Nature Playdate

Thursday, Feb. 12 and Friday, Mar. 13 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Geared toward ages 2-12 yrs, free.



Nature Storytime

Thursdays, Feb. 19 and March 19, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. All ages, free.

All-Ages Classes

Indoor Astronomy Night

Fridays, Feb. 27 from 6 to 7 p.m. and March 27 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. All ages, \$5. Registration required.

You read that right, we'll be stargazing from the comfort of the Nature Center using a remotely-controlled robotic telescope! This program will take place regardless of the weather. Space is limited - registration required.

Night with a Naturalist: Build a Bird Feeder

Thursday, Feb. 19, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Ages 6+, \$20 includes all supplies and bird seed.

To celebrate National Bird-Feeding Month, we'll be learning about common birds that visit feeders and then building a feeder to bring home.



Night with a Naturalist: Winter Survival

Thursday, March 12, 5:30 to 7 p.m. All ages, free.

Join us as we explore the winter survival strategies of Colorado animals with a fun, family-friendly activity and a craft to take home!

Nature Journaling for Everyone

Saturday, March 21, from 9 to 11 a.m. Ages 8+, \$5.

Join us as we kick off our new monthly nature journaling series! Whether you're new to nature journaling or looking to expand your skills, there will be something for everyone in this class!



2026

MAJESTIC VIEW NATURE CAMPS

Registration opens on
Feb. 3 at Noon MDT.

Our camps are designed to encourage wonder and excitement for nature through hands-on activities, games, crafts, and exploration. Campers learn about their environment, gain new skills and develop their confidence by spending time exploring the outdoors.

Weekly camps June 1 through August 7
Ages 7 to 11
Cost: \$375/camper per week

Visit majesticviewnc.org for more information, themes, and registration.

EXPLORE. DISCOVER. LEARN.



VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 7
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Have a green thumb? Want to learn more about wildlife or show off your naturalist skills? We need you! Stop by to learn more about volunteering at Majestic View Nature Center.

GROW. SERVE. CONNECT.

Reservoir volunteers needed

The City is looking for outdoor enthusiasts to join its Reservoir Rangers program! Reservoir Rangers are a dedicated group of volunteers who assist with the daily operations of the Arvada-Blunn Reservoir April through October.

Reservoir Ranger duties:

- Perform boat and kayak inspections
- Patrol reservoir for safety concerns
- Assist at special events such as the annual Arvada Kids Fishing Tournament
- Sell daily and annual passes
- Provide general information for usage of the reservoir

Training

All Rangers participate in a 2-day 'Ranger U' training held on March 10, 11, and 18 that includes:

- Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) training with Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Basic Ranger training and orientation (family first aid, defibrillator, safety training with Arvada PD)



Perks, benefits and incentives

- Free admission to the reservoir for the entire season
- End-of-season celebration/banquet

How to apply

Visit the City website at the City website and fill out the application, or contact Ranger Coordinator Mike McDonnell at mmcdonnell@arvada.org, 720-990-1954.

ARVADA

POLICE DEPARTMENT



RESPECT, DEDICATION, RESPONSIBILITY. WE WILL ALWAYS STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

Inside the ARTIC

How real-time technology supports City services

As Arvada continues to grow, so does the need for City services to be faster, more coordinated, and more effective. One of the City's newest tools supporting that goal is the Arvada Real Time Information Center, known as the ARTIC.

Located on the second floor of City Hall in the former Arvada PD Communications Center, the ARTIC is designed to use technology to support not just public safety, but operations across the entire City organization. The goal is simple: give staff better information, sooner, so they can make better decisions in real time.

While real-time information and crime centers were initially created to support law enforcement operations, Arvada's ARTIC will support multiple City Departments. Fully realized, the ARTIC will bring together live camera feeds, drone technology, and other data sources to support Departments ranging from police and fire to utilities, streets, engineering, and parks.

In early 2026, Arvada PD hired two dedicated technicians to staff the ARTIC. Their initial focus is expanding capacity and implementing new technology to complement existing systems. Over time, additional City departments will be integrated into the ARTIC, allowing more teams to share information and benefit from a common operational picture.

For Arvada PD, the ARTIC supports officers by providing real-time situational awareness and investigative assistance. In the future, a Drone as First Responder (DFR) program may complement the Department's existing drone program to help increase capabilities and efficiency. For example, a DFR may determine that an issue has already been resolved, reducing the need for an officer response and allowing resources to be redirected where they are most needed. The technology could be especially valuable in high-activity areas like Olde Town or more difficult to reach areas of the city.

The Arvada Fire Protection District can use the ARTIC to gain early information before arriving on scene. Aerial views of structure fires, wildland fires or traffic accidents can help first responders determine staffing and equipment needs sooner. The technology also has potential for wildfire detection, facility inspections, and search and rescue support.

Beyond emergency response, the ARTIC has everyday operational uses. Engineering and streets teams can monitor traffic flow, verify equipment failures, assess flooding risks, and decide when to deploy snowplows during storms. Utilities staff can inspect infrastructure in hard-to-reach areas without sending crews into the field. Parks, events, and



volunteer services staff can monitor large events, manage traffic flow and even confirm sprinkler start-ups without tying up staff time.

One example of possible cross-department collaboration involves homeless encampments along waterways or under bridges. Using drone and camera technology, the ARTIC would be able to quickly verify locations, support outreach by homeless navigators and CORE officers, and help coordinate follow-up work by utilities, parks, and other staff. The result is a more thorough, efficient and respectful response.

As the ARTIC continues to grow and evolve, the City will also explore partnerships and cost-sharing opportunities with other agencies and organizations. The long-term vision is a shared resource that helps Arvada deliver high-quality services, responsibly and efficiently, as the community grows.

City honors police unit focused on homelessness

When residents or business owners call for help involving homelessness, a specialized unit within the Arvada Police Department often responds. Known as the Community Outreach Resources and Enforcement Team, or CORE, the team works at the intersection of public safety, social services, and community problem-solving.

In recognition of that work, the City of Arvada named the CORE team its Team of the Year for 2025.

The CORE team was created to build lasting relationships with individuals and families experiencing homelessness while also addressing community concerns. In addition to standard police duties, CORE officers focus on outreach, coordination, and follow-through. They respond to citywide calls for service involving homelessness, proactively connect people with resources and, when necessary, enforce state and municipal laws.



Arvada PD CORE Team:

Officers Jen Randall, Paul Brunett, Jake Jones, and Javier Alonso (left to right)

access mental health care, treatment programs, housing assistance, employment support, and medical services. Officers also maintain ongoing personal contact with people experiencing homelessness to build trust and make appropriate referrals.

The team partners with the City Attorney’s Office and Municipal Court through the One Small Step Program, a problem-solving court designed to assist defendants who are experiencing homelessness. CORE has also collaborated with the Olde Town Arvada Business Improvement District and the City Parks Department to address safety

concerns, coordinate cleanups, and balance access to shared public spaces.

The 2025 award recognized Officers Javier Alonso, Paul Brunett, Jake Jones and Jen Randall for their collaborative, community-focused policing model that serves unhoused individuals while supporting residents and businesses citywide.

..... ”

CORE officers operate at the intersection of public safety and human need, often in situations that are complex and at times dangerous. Their ability to navigate those moments with professionalism, empathy, and resolve speaks volumes about their character and their dedication to Arvada.

Chief Ed Brady

.....

A key part of the team’s approach is partnership. CORE works closely with the City’s Homelessness Resolution Case Managers, local service providers, and community organizations to help individuals

2025 CORE Team Statistics


1,974
Calls for service


205
Arrests


385
Citations issued


1,300
People contacted

Jump In: Your Community Needs You

In our busy lives, it's easy to focus on simply getting through the day: errands, work, family commitments, and the endless to-do list. Participating in community activities often falls to the bottom or off the list entirely. Our lives are full, yet commitment to our community can be surprisingly easy to neglect.

At the same time, many people are feeling increasingly disconnected. According to a survey conducted by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, 21% of adults reported experiencing serious feelings of loneliness. When asked what contributes to loneliness in America, respondents most often cited technology (73%), families not spending enough time together (66%), and people working too much or feeling too busy or exhausted (62%). About 60% also pointed to mental health challenges, excessive individualism, and a lack of relationship skills.

These trends can feel overwhelming, but there is good news. One of the most effective ways to build connection and counter loneliness is to get involved in your community.



Giving back by offering your time, skills, or presence doesn't just help others; it benefits you, too. Community participation is linked to deeper social connections, a greater sense of meaning and purpose, more active lifestyles, and improved well-being. Some studies even suggest that strong social ties and regular volunteering are associated with longer, healthier lives.

Importantly, giving back doesn't have to be completely selfless or burdensome. The most sustainable community involvement often starts with what you already care about. When you choose how to spend your time based on your interests and values, participation becomes something that energizes you rather than another obligation.

Once you start looking, you'll find that there are opportunities for every interest, schedule, and stage of life, such as:

- Joining a service club like Rotary, Optimists, Kiwanis, Elks, or another organization
- Volunteering for a festival, event, or nonprofit that aligns with your values
- Participating in a crafting or creative group
- Attending social activities like trivia nights, library book clubs, or group bike rides
- Signing up for a recreation league, art class, or community event
- Organizing a neighborhood block party or joining a community garden
- Creating a "play street" where neighbors gather and kids can safely play
- Organizing or joining a service project (opportunities can be found at **Just Serve website**)
- Attending a church or community organization regularly
- Offering practical help to neighbors—whether that's shoveling snow, lending a tool, or checking in on someone who could use support



Join a National Movement of Service

As part of America’s 250th anniversary, a new national campaign—**America Gives**—invites individuals and communities to make **2026 the biggest year of volunteering in American history.**

Whether it’s an hour a month or a major service project, your contribution can be part of something larger. Civic participation has always been part of America’s story, and now is the time to write the next chapter together.

How to take part:

- Pledge volunteer hours or log service time
- Join a local project that reflects your values
- Help make history through hands-on action

Learn more and explore opportunities at:



america 250 website

When we give back, we grow stronger, together.

Jump into your community

When we give back to our community, we make it more welcoming, resilient, and connected for everyone, including ourselves. This is your invitation: pick something that aligns with your values and jump in. Community doesn’t happen on its own. It happens because people like you show up.

Celebrating 150 Years of Colorado and 250 Years of the United States

In 2026, we’ll mark two major milestones: the 150th anniversary of Colorado’s statehood and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Across the state, and here in Arvada, these anniversaries are an opportunity to reflect on where we’ve been, honor the people and stories that shape us, and imagine where we’re headed next.

From our historic flour mill to community festivals, Arvada’s past is woven into the story of Colorado itself. That sense of place and pride in our local history makes us stronger, and gives us stories worth passing on.

The City is working with local partners to create events, storytelling projects, and creative ways to connect with our shared history all year long.



Stay tuned for what’s ahead and explore the statewide effort at **History Colorado website**



ARVADA FIRE

Lessons learned from December's power shutoffs

By Fire Chief Kirk Lock

The week before Christmas, nearly 50,000 homes along the Front Range were without power for days due to a planned outage. Known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), the outage was implemented by Xcel Energy in response to critical fire weather driven by strong winds and dry conditions.

The impact was widespread and challenging for everyone involved—first responders and residents alike. Most homes west of Indiana Street lost power for several days, and in nearby Evergreen, some households were without electricity for more than five days.

For our fire district, the outage required significant preparation and coordination. Fire stations transitioned to generator and backup power, additional staffing was brought in to respond to potential wildfires, and our teams participated in numerous planning meetings with partners such as the National Weather Service and the County Office of Emergency Management.

For residents, many homes went without heat, food spoiled, and daily routines were disrupted, creating stress and safety concerns across the community. While we all hope this type of event is rare, I don't believe this will be the last time our community faces a planned power outage. When extreme weather conditions increase wildfire risk, PSPS events may again be necessary.

With that in mind, we want to share a few important reminders to help you prepare for the next outage.

Creating an emergency plan and kit, and practicing that plan with family and those you live with is vital. It will give you peace of mind and some measure of resilience for the next outage. To start, sign up for emergency alerts via lookoutalert.co and ensure you are receiving alerts about outages from Xcel.

An emergency kit should include flashlights, batteries, first aid, bottled water and non-perishable food, portable chargers, and more. Even something simple, like the manufacturer's instructions on manually opening garage doors, can save a headache.

An emergency plan includes an outline for what you'll do, where you'll stay, and the things you'll need to get by (medications, food, backup power, etc.). Those who rely on medical equipment are particularly vulnerable and may need extra batteries for medical equipment and extra portable tanks for medical oxygen. If you plan to run a generator, ensure that it's been serviced, is operated outdoors at least 20 feet away from any structure, and working Carbon Monoxide alarms are installed in the home. Additional checklists and safety information can be found at [Xcel Energy website](#). 🏠

Board of Directors



Jim Whitfield



Joel Kingham



Clint Cannon



Jack C. Major



Ted Terranova



7903 Allison Way - Arvada, CO 80005 | 303-424-3012 | [Arvada Fire Website](#)



Content provided by the Arvada Fire Protection District, an entity separate from the City of Arvada.

The Arvada Report | 14 | February - March 2026

Rubenking's recognition marks special milestone

Maintenance Supervisor Ken Rubenking has been named Arvada Fire's 2025 Employee of the Year, a distinguished honor recognizing exceptional service and impact. A former firefighter and officer, Rubenking previously earned Firefighter of the Year in 2010, making him the first member of the district to receive both awards.



In his current role, Rubenking is responsible for ensuring that Arvada Fire's more than 15 stations and facilities are safe, functional, and responsive to the needs of those who use them every day. Known for his deep institutional knowledge, strong work ethic, and solutions-focused approach, Rubenking plays a vital role in supporting the district's operations.

"Ken's phone rarely stops ringing because everyone knows that if you have a problem, Ken has a solution," one award nomination stated. "Managing repairs and maintenance across every facility in the district is a daunting task, and Ken handles it without fail."

Rubenking joined Arvada Fire in 1995 and was recently recognized for 30 years of dedicated service. A longtime Arvada resident, he began his career as a volunteer firefighter and served in multiple roles, including quartermaster, lieutenant, and captain. He later transitioned to a career firefighter position and served as a lieutenant out of Station 55.

"I really enjoy serving this community and this department, whether it's as a volunteer, a career firefighter, or in maintenance," Rubenking said. "Whatever the role is, I'm dedicated to doing it the right way to the best of my abilities."

When an opportunity arose in facilities management, Rubenking transitioned into a role that aligned with his experience and skill set while allowing him to continue serving the district in a critical way. He now oversees daily maintenance operations, coordinates with vendors, and manages large-scale capital improvement projects, including the recent Training Center remodel. His work has a lasting, tangible impact on everyone who visits or works in an Arvada Fire facility. 🔧

Arvada Fire honors Wise as Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter Paramedic Sterling Wise has been named 2025 Firefighter of the Year, an award presented annually for exemplary job performance and exhibiting values that define Arvada Fire.

"If I was to call 911 for any reason, fire or medical, I would want Sterling Wise to show up every single time," said one firefighter who nominated Wise.



Firefighter of the Year is a peer-driven award based on nominations and criteria chosen by fellow firefighters and leadership. For Wise, an 8-year veteran of the district, this is what makes the honor so meaningful.

"Everyone I've worked with across all ranks, I've looked up to as mentors and role models," said Wise. "To be nominated by those same people and to have your peers tell you that they think you are deserving, that's what makes this special."

A native of Arizona, Wise worked in radio communications as a young adult before his career in the fire service. On a project installing equipment on a fire truck, he talked to the firefighters and learned about the camaraderie and rewarding benefits of a career in the fire service. Once he moved to Colorado, Wise relentlessly pursued that path, receiving his EMT certification and putting himself through challenging paramedic school.

Wise was hired by Arvada Fire in 2017 and quickly began distinguishing himself through his work ethic, skills, fitness, and commitment to improvement. He's served out of Stations 51, 56 and 57 and has won several Phoenix Awards given for cardiac arrest saves. He's also taken on several leadership roles through the paramedic program and as Sergeant of Arms for the firefighter's union (Local 4056).

"His commitment to the paramedic program has elevated the level of care our department provides, while his elite firefighting skills set a benchmark for operational excellence," said another nomination.

A husband and father to two girls, one of Wise's favorite parts of being a firefighter is having a family both at home and at work.

"The camaraderie is what I love most about this career. Developing those close bonds with your crew, there aren't many professions like it," said Wise. 🔧



Celebrating American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and empowering people to take steps toward a healthier life. Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of death, but many risk factors are within our control. By making informed choices and learning lifesaving skills, we can protect our own hearts while being prepared to help others in an emergency.

Taking Control of Your Heart Health

Heart disease is very common. In the United States, heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups. In 2022, 1 in every 5 deaths in the United States was caused by heart disease. High blood pressure is a leading cause of heart disease. Nearly half of U.S. adults have high blood pressure, which puts them at risk for heart disease and stroke.

Caring for your heart starts with everyday habits. Choose healthy meal and snack options to help you avoid high blood pressure and its complications. Be sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. Talk with your health care team about eating a variety of foods rich in

potassium, fiber, and protein and lower in salt (sodium) and saturated fat. For many people, making these healthy changes can help keep blood pressure low and protect against heart disease and stroke.

Regular physical activity is another cornerstone of heart wellness. Even moderate movement—such as brisk walking, biking, or swimming—can strengthen the heart and improve circulation. Health experts recommend aiming for consistent activity throughout the week and choosing activities you enjoy so they're easier to maintain.

Managing stress and getting enough sleep are often overlooked but equally important. Chronic stress can contribute to high blood pressure and other heart-related issues, while poor sleep affects how the body regulates hormones and metabolism.

Finally, staying informed about your health matters. Routine checkups help you understand key numbers like blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar. Knowing your family history and talking with a healthcare professional about personal risk factors can help you take proactive steps before problems arise.

Why Learning Hands-Only CPR Matters

Cardiac arrest—an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) and disrupts the flow of blood to the brain, lungs and other organs—is a leading cause of death. Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States.

When a person has a cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately receiving CPR from someone nearby. Sadly, about 90% of people who experience this type of cardiac arrest die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

Hands-Only CPR has been shown to be as effective in the first few minutes as conventional CPR for cardiac arrest at home, at work or in public. Hands-Only CPR has just two easy steps, performed in this order:

- **Call 911** if you see a teen or adult suddenly collapse. The telecommunicator on the other end of the line will give you instructions and assist you while getting help on the way.
- **Push hard and fast** in the center of the chest to the beat of a familiar song that has 100 to 120 beats per minute. Think "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees or "Crazy In Love" by Beyonce.

Less than 50%
of cardiac arrest
victims get help
before emergency
responders arrive.

FEBRUARY IS
HEART MONTH.



To learn more, visit
[heart.org website](https://www.heart.org)



5 Steps to Portable Generator Safety



Portable generators are useful when the power goes out, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.

Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.

Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.

Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.

For more information and free resources, visit usfa.fema.gov



What is the Planning Commission?

If you're a dedicated follower of the Arvada Report, then you know that the City is kicking off its multiyear effort to create a new Comprehensive Plan this winter. You also know about the Land Development Code (LDC), which puts the guidance of the Comprehensive Plan into legal practice and dictates what can be built and where in our city.

Another piece of this complicated puzzle is the "who" – the governing bodies that are appointed to carry out the vision of the Comprehensive Plan and uphold the rules of the LDC. You're probably familiar with the City Council, a group of six Councilmembers and the Mayor who are elected by Arvadans to represent the community's interests in decision making. But usually, before land use matters make it to the City Council, they are considered and debated by the Planning Commission.

"The Planning team meets with the Commission, typically twice a month, to review annexations, rezonings, conditional uses, planned unit developments, and Comprehensive Plan amendments," explains Rob Smetana, the Manager of City Planning and Development and the main liaison to the Planning Commission. "While they make recommendations on these matters, the ultimate ratification of those decisions is up to the City Council."

It's not a role that the seven resident members of the Commission take lightly, says Community and Economic Development Director Jessica Garner. "The Commissioners know they are there to represent their community, and they all bring different experiences and areas of expertise to their roles and make decisions with fairness and integrity."

Like City Councilmembers, Planning Commissioners hear public comment during meetings,



bringing accountability and the community's voice to the forefront of planning decisions. With the new Comprehensive Plan project on the horizon, Planning Commission meetings will be an important element of community engagement.

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The Commissioners know they are there to represent their community, and they all bring different experiences and areas of expertise to their roles and make decisions with fairness and integrity.

Jessica Garner
Community and Economic
Development Director

"The members of the Planning Commission will be weighing in on the Comprehensive Plan every step of the way," Garner explains. "Their main role will be to oversee the development of the new plan and present the final document to the City Council for ratification and adoption at the end of the process."

Planning Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms. This winter, a new Commissioner was seated after the election of former chair Michael P. Griffith to the at-large City Council seat. To see upcoming Planning Commission meetings or learn more, visit **the City website**.

AEDA grant helps businesses beautify

For a small business owner, curb appeal can mean the difference between success and closure. That's why the Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) has been helping businesses beautify their façades for more than a decade with the help of the Exterior Improvement Grant.

Businesses are applying right now for the 2026 grant. They're doing so after a big year for the grant: In 2025, the AEDA Board of Directors approved a record \$127,500 in grant funds for 16 Arvada businesses. "Our Board is committed to the ripple effects these improvements create, like attracting new customers, encouraging new businesses, and helping make Arvada an appealing place to live," says Sarah Miley, Senior Economic Development Specialist.

Some of that funding went toward restaurants Orion Hot Pot and Bonfire Burritos. For their respective owners, the extra support made these passion projects a reality. "We had a vision for our outdoor space," says Bonfire Burritos co-owner Ian Lanier. "The Exterior Improvement Grant was crucial in making that vision feasible." Bonfire Burritos opened their first brick-and-mortar location in Golden in 2019 and waited patiently for the perfect expansion opportunity. They opened a second location earlier this year in Olde Town.



"We wanted to create a special environment for the community to gather," Lanier explains. "We waited for about four years to open our second location, but when we saw this spot become available, we didn't wait a second to pursue it."

The owners of Orion Hot Pot had their eyes on their future home on Ralston Road for a while, too. When Olla and her business partner were finally able to purchase the property, they knew they had to nail the look from start to finish.



"I wanted to build an eye-catching restaurant that you'd want to check out when you drive by, so that when you get inside and see the traditional space we've created, you'll be impressed," Olla says.

Olla, who worked as a chef in her home country of Indonesia, learned how to prepare hot pot from her mother. She wanted to bring the rich tradition of the Chinese stew to the Denver area, and Arvada felt like the perfect community to introduce it.

"Hot pot comes from an area of China that gets down to 20 below in the winter. It was a tradition to eat hot pot together to warm your body with healthy vegetables and meats. I knew Arvada was the place for that togetherness," Olla explains.

Both Olla and Lainer have turned the opportunity from AEDA into what they hope will be a positive long-term relationship with Arvada residents and visitors. "The first year is hard for a small business," says Olla. "That extra help from AEDA made the difference for us getting through."

Adds Lanier, "Even if your business is still hypothetical or a dream, the resources and connections AEDA have are very powerful."

AEDA's Exterior Improvement Grant is taking applications now through March 16. If you're a small business owner, visit AEDA's website to apply at arvadaeconomicdevelopment.org.

Mother and daughter find home with help from City, local partners

The road to solving homelessness is a long and complicated one. But the City and our partners continue to make headway. Late last year, one family's journey from a sudden loss of shelter to their own new home came to a happy ending, and the City was proud to play a role in their story.

When her husband passed away, Dora moved from Texas to Arvada to live with her daughter Rhonda. They lived a comfortable life, enjoying the time together and giving back to the community when they could – even serving meals to neighbors experiencing homelessness during the holidays.

Then last winter, the unexpected happened: Rhonda was diagnosed with cancer. After a month in the hospital, the bills piled up. Unable to work, Rhonda lost her job. Soon, there was no way to pay the rent. She and her mom were forced to live in their car during the coldest part of the year.

"Never in my life did I dream that I would be living in my car at age 81," Dora says. "We had never experienced anything like that, so we didn't know what we could do." It fell to mother and daughter to support each other through the most difficult time of their lives. They lived off Dora's Social Security for months, but it wasn't enough for a roof over their heads.

Rhonda remembers feeling ashamed – unable to explain to the people she'd met what had led to their situation. "I had a good job. I was making good money," she says. "I just got cancer."

Stories like Dora and Rhonda's are common. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), about



one in five of those experiencing homelessness is over the age of 55.

It was a chance meeting that led Dora and Rhonda to help. Soon, Mission Arvada and the City of Arvada helped get the women off the street and into temporary housing at Suburban Studios. "They got us in as quickly as they could. They didn't want my mom or me living in our car," Rhonda says.

..... ”
Seeing them enter a phase that is safe, hopeful, and full of promise is exactly why I do what I do. I couldn't be happier for them.

Alexa Ursetta
Housing Coordinator
.....

With a place to sleep and stay warm, Dora says hope returned for her and her daughter. "We started to get our respect back. That was really the turnaround." Over the holidays, they moved into their new permanent home.

It was a joint effort by the City's Housing and Homelessness teams, along with partners in the

community, that brought a close to this chapter for Dora and Rhonda. Housing Navigator Alexa Ursetta was there with the pair every step of the way. "Dora and Rhonda consistently put their best foot forward, trusting the process and believing in what it could lead to," Ursetta says. "Seeing them enter a phase that is safe, hopeful, and full of promise is exactly why I do what I do. I couldn't be happier for them."

Homelessness Program Manager Lynette Badasarian says the community has truly stepped up to help in the effort. "It is thrilling to see the work our team does by collaborating with City teams and community partners so they can assist people experiencing homelessness on their path to home."

Addressing homelessness is a main priority for the City in 2026, and we look forward to sharing more stories like Dora and Rhonda's via social media and the City's Homelessness Response newsletter. Sign up to follow along at **the City website**.

Protecting our lakes: Simple steps to reduce runoff

Written by Malea Fajardo, sophomore at Standley Lake High School

Last summer, I surveyed various Arvada residents and discovered that chemical weedkillers and lawn fertilizers are widely used throughout the community without the knowledge of the negative impacts that these products have on water quality. Generally, runoff from fertilizers and weedkillers can carry excess phosphorus and nitrogen into our waterways. Too much phosphorus fuels algae blooms, which have repeatedly impacted Arvada lakes, reducing oxygen levels and harming aquatic life.

Although various factors including weather, temperature, and water levels contribute to algae blooms, links can still be drawn to a rise in

phosphorus levels as a contributing factor. Monitoring by the City of Arvada Stormwater team shows that phosphorus levels in Arvada lakes are, on average, two to three times higher in summer than in winter. This increase highlights the significant impact of runoff on local water quality.

There are many alternatives to traditional chemical weed killers and fertilizers that residents can consider when cleaning up their lawns. To naturally strengthen your lawn and control weeds, consider using corn gluten meal or mulch. Alternatives to chemical weed killers include a vinegar-and-water solution, boiling water, hand

weeding, or products like Green Gobbler and EcoSmart.

If traditional weedkillers and fertilizers are still your choice, learning the proper amounts and timing can help reduce runoff. Take precautions such as checking the weather and avoiding applications before storms or heavy rain. You can also test your soil's nutrient levels to ensure your lawn gets only what it needs for proper absorption. Exploring alternatives or adjusting how you use weedkillers and fertilizers are small steps we can all take to support a healthier, stronger environment for our community.



About Malea

My name is Malea Fajardo, and I'm a sophomore at Standley Lake High School and a lifelong Arvada resident. As part of our sophomore year studies, we are required to complete a project that tracks progress toward a final goal based on a topic we are passionate about. For my project, I chose to educate the community on the potential effects of weedkiller and fertilizer use. Environmental studies and awareness have always been important to me, and I believe most people care about the environment but may not have the information to fully understand its impact. My goal is to provide that education and help the community make more informed choices.

Resource for outdoor water savings

A typical single family home can more than double their water bill with outdoor watering. Arvada water customers can receive discounts on Resource Central's outdoor water conservation programs.

2026 programs include:

- **Garden in a Box** provides \$25 off low water landscape kits.
- **Slow the Flow** provides free sprinkler evaluations.
- **Lawn Replacement** provides discounts to remove a section of your grass.

Find links to the programs available to Arvada water customers at **the City website**. Many programs sell out so joining the interest lists and registering early is encouraged.



Meet the welcoming people and discover the beloved spots and community events that make our city so charming. It won't take long to see why Arvada is easy to fall for . . . and even harder to leave!

What's Happening in Arvada



WHAT'S NEW

The Apex Archery Range is a new outdoor facility at the Apex Center (13150 W 72nd Ave). It's a 60-yard range for all ages and skill levels, offering drop-in sessions, rentals, classes, and private lessons. With fees for residents and non-residents, the range welcomes both beginners and experienced shooters for practice or training.

GET STARTED: Visit ApexPRD.org for current hours, pricing, and to register for current programs.

STAY TUNED

The "250/150 initiative" in Colorado refers to the statewide America 250 + Colorado 150 commemorative effort marking two major anniversaries in 2026:

Colorado is celebrating:

- 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence (the United States' semi quincentennial)
- 150 years since Colorado became a state (its sesquicentennial)

Together, this dual celebration is commonly called "250-150", a once-in-a-lifetime overlap of national and state anniversaries. We will be working to compile local events that celebrate this unique year for our state and nation.

Stay tuned to **Visit Arvada website** for more information.



GET TO KNOW

Congratulations to Hospitality Hero winner Kendal Lyon of La Patisserie Francaise! We had the pleasure of meeting Kendal last year and were blown away with her energy, enthusiasm and kind spirit. Nominated by owner Sadie Russo, "Kendal doesn't just deliver great service, she builds connections. She truly embodies the spirit of the Arvada community . . . warm, welcoming, and rooted in genuine care. Kendal makes everyone feel like they're part of something special." Learn more about Kendal by scanning the QR code.



DON'T MISS

The Olde Town Arvada St. Patrick's Day Festival is a free, family-friendly street festival held in the heart of historic Olde Town Arvada that celebrates Irish culture and the spirit of St. Patrick's Day. Thousands of locals and visitors turn out for this lively event each year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 14. Don't miss the live music, amazing artisan vendors, and community spirit of this annual festival.

CONNECT WITH US

Would you love to have more information about new Arvada businesses, upcoming events and unique ways to enjoy our community? Let us into your inbox by scanning the QR code.



VISIT ARVADA: WHY VISITORS MATTER

Tourism is more than travel, it's an economic engine for Arvada! Every visitor who shops, dines, and stays in Arvada contributes to the city's vitality. In fact, sales tax revenue accounts for one-quarter of the City's total income, powering vital services and infrastructure that benefit every resident. Your investment in tourism is an investment in Arvada's future. From funding police and emergency services to maintaining parks and upgrading city infrastructure, visitor spending fuels the very heartbeat of our community.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

22 All-Out Mardi Crawl

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Apex Center
13150 W. 72nd Ave.
Visit the Apex website for more info.

28 Arvada Winterfest

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Olde Town Arvada Square,
5726 Olde Wadsworth Blvd.
(see [page 7](#))

MARCH

7 Touch-A-Truck hosted by Apex

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities
6901 Wadsworth Blvd.
Details below

14 St. Patrick's Day Festival

12 to 6 p.m.
Olde Town

APRIL

12 Arvada Kite Festival

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Stenger Sports Complex



25 Bulky Item Drop-off Event

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
North Area Athletic Sports Complex (NAAC)

Arvada Community Garden

Garden plots will be available soon at the Arvada Community Garden, now in its 59th year! The garden is located at W. 57th Ave. and Garrison St. Returning gardeners have until Feb. 10 to renew their garden plot from last year. Applications for new gardeners will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Feb. 11. Learn about membership fees and details by visiting the Arvada Gardeners website. Additionally, the Arvada Gardeners have year-round activities including free public garden classes, Arvada Festival involvement, work days, social activities, an annual open house, Pumpkin Festival and much more!



Touch-A-Truck hosted by Apex

Bring the whole family to Apex Park and Recreation District's annual Touch-A-Truck on March 7 at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities located at 6901 Wadsworth Blvd. See, touch, and explore large vehicles and machinery, and meet the people behind the machines that build and protect our community.


The event will feature music, horns, and sirens from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. There is a sensory-friendly hour after the event, starting at 1 p.m. Contact Vee at ViolaD@ApexPRD.org or **303-463-4294** for more information and to register.



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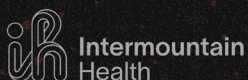
arvada  center

The greatest love story ever told is a relevant,
cautionary tale about the price of division and hate

ROMEO & JULIET

FEB 13 - MAR 29, 2026

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, DIRECTED BY LYNNE COLLINS



Underwritten by
Diana and Mike Kinsey

