

In the Loop with Nancy

January 2026

Newsletter from Colorado Springs City Councilmember Nancy Henjum

Happy winter to all District 5 friends and neighbors! I'm so glad to connect with you through this edition of my Newsletter. Each month, I share updates on city projects, events you can join, resources for residents, and stories from around our community.

Grateful to serve,

Nancy

Councilmember, District 5 – Colorado Springs



Neighbors Building Community — The Best Part of This Job

If you ever wonder what makes this role feel most meaningful to me, it's this: rooms full of neighbors showing up for one another.

Over the past few weeks, I've had the privilege of joining two neighborhood meetings that beautifully reflect what strong local democracy looks like—and why this work matters so much to me and should to all of us.

Neighbors from Papeton and Cragmor came together at **Edison Elementary School** on a snowy night for a wide-ranging, thoughtful, and energizing conversation. We reflected on how much has happened since our September 24 gathering, shared updates on parks planning and the DMRS grant, discussed the importance of the history of these neighborhoods and how it connects to our shared future (check out [The Story of Us](#)). We heard updates from the [URA](#) on the North Nevada corridor improvement project as well as a pending attainable housing project slated to be built in the neighborhood. We talked about organizing tools, like forming a Friends Group for the parks and how neighbors can stay involved as the Parks System Master Plan moves forward. The tone throughout the evening was constructive, respectful, and deeply rooted in care for this place and one another. This is what I love about this role: seeing neighbors claim their agency, connecting across blocks and histories, and shaping the future of their community together.





Just days later, I joined the Roswell Neighborhood for their second neighborhood meeting, with about 80 residents in attendance. Organized only in late 2025, they already have multiple block captains and a [neighborhood watch](#) group in place. The energy in the room spoke volumes about what's possible when neighbors decide to organize, look out for one another, and invest in their shared community.

Helping neighbors connect with resources, supporting their efforts to organize, and strengthening the fabric of our neighborhoods is, without question, the most impactful work I do as a City Councilmember. It builds trust, capacity, and real momentum at the neighborhood

level—where lasting change begins.

That's why I believe our time and attention as city leaders is best spent supporting this kind of community-centered work. Recent City Council actions, including a reprimand of Council member Kimberly Gold related to remarks made during an MLK proclamation, serve as a reminder of how important it is that we remain focused on building shared understanding and public trust. You can read more about that reprimand [here](#).

I remain committed to showing up where neighbors are doing the work—listening, learning, and helping connect ideas to action.

Next meeting:

- 📅 **Cragmor & Papeton Neighborhood Meeting**
- 📍 **Edison Elementary School**
- 🕒 **May 7 | 5:30–7:00 p.m.**

If you live in Cragmor or Papeton, or are connected to a neighborhood organization, I encourage you to attend and help shape the topics for future meetings. Parks updates will continue to be a regular focus, and there are many ways to stay involved as plans move forward.

Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, asked thoughtful questions, and helped make these meetings such a success. I'm grateful for the chance to do this work alongside you. If your District 5 neighborhood has not had a meeting with anyone from the city but you would like to get engaged, please reach out to me at nancy.henjum@coloradosprings.gov and we can talk about what that might look like! Or check out [Hey Neighbor](#) to learn more about how to engage in your community.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services needs your input! (Deadline February 13)



The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is updating the Park System Master Plan (PSMP), which will guide decisions about parks, trails, open spaces, recreation programs, and cultural services for the next 10–15 years. From a press release:

Colorado Springs residents are invited to help shape the future of the city's parks, trails, open spaces, facilities, cultural services and programming by participating in a [new citywide Vision Survey](#).

The Vision Survey follows the completion of the Park System Assessment, which focused on understanding current conditions and community needs across the park system. This next step shifts the focus from evaluating today's system to identifying what matters most going forward, including priorities related to park maintenance, safety and comfort, trails, access, programming, and future investments.

The Vision Survey asks residents about park use, safety and comfort, system priorities, recreation and cultural programming, and perspectives on funding and tradeoffs.

The survey takes approximately six to eight minutes to complete and will remain open until midnight Friday, Feb. 13. To take the Vision Survey or learn more about the project, visit [ColoradoSprings.gov/ParkSystemMasterPlan](#).

Rooftop Solar at Colorado Springs Utilities

After voting against the rooftop solar net metering rate in October, I have been working with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) to ensure there is robust and meaningful public engagement with customers who have invested in rooftop solar over the past twenty years. These investments were made both to help households offset their energy costs and to support a cleaner, more renewable energy system.

The purpose of this current engagement effort is to ensure that CSU is taking into account the lived experience of this group of customers, many of whom have felt surprised or betrayed by recent policy changes. It is also to invite their ideas for fair and equitable ways to address the costs to the electric system associated with rooftop solar. As a CSU Board member, I believe it is essential to balance the long-term financial health of the utility with policies that are transparent, equitable, and supportive of clean energy adoption.

To that end, CSU sent an email to all residential solar customers encouraging them to complete a dedicated survey focused specifically on residential solar generation. This quantitative survey was sent to approximately 10,000 solar customers on January 20. At my request, a [follow-up email](#) was also sent that includes a link to a new [CSU blog post](#) explaining why the survey was issued, how the feedback will be used, and what the upcoming engagement timeline looks like. The blog post was additionally shared on CSU's Facebook and LinkedIn pages so that the information would be easy to find for both solar and non-solar customers.

In addition, CSU has created an "open" survey that anyone may complete, regardless of whether they have rooftop solar. Responses to this survey will be considered qualitative research. All feedback is appreciated and will be reviewed by CSU's Customer Insights Team, and the results will help inform revisions to the rooftop solar rate design.

You can access the open survey here:

[Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)

2026 spring youth and adult sports registration now open in Colorado Springs

Registration is now open for 2026 spring youth and adult sports programs offered by the City of Colorado Springs, giving residents of all ages opportunities to stay active, build skills, and connect with their community through organized recreation this spring.



The City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department offers a variety of spring leagues and activities hosted at neighborhood parks and facilities throughout Colorado Springs. These programs help provide accessible, community-focused recreation opportunities during the spring season and encourage active living close to home.

Residents can explore available spring programs, review schedules, and register online at ColoradoSprings.gov/Sports.

In addition to player registration, adults interested in supporting spring youth sports are encouraged to consider volunteering as coaches. Volunteer coaches receive training and equipment support through the City's Sports Office, and prior coaching experience is not required. Learn more at ColoradoSprings.gov/volunteer-youth-sports.

City of Colorado Springs completes WastelessCOS action plan to reduce waste and expand recycling access

The City of Colorado Springs has completed the WastelessCOS Waste Diversion Study and Action Plan, a community-informed effort to reduce waste, expand recycling and build a more sustainable community. The completed Waste Diversion Action Study and Plan is available at ColoradoSprings.gov/WastelessCOS.

The study provides a data-driven look at how materials are managed across homes, businesses, and City operations, helping inform strategies that support residents today while protecting resources for future generations.



The Waste Diversion Action Plan establishes a long-term goal of increasing Colorado Springs' community-wide waste diversion rate to 37% by 2045, with targeted benchmarks for single-family, multi-family, and commercial sectors. The focus is on potential actions that improve access to recycling and composting, reduce contamination, and make waste reduction easier and more effective across the city.

Implementation of the Waste Diversion Action Plan will occur in phases as funding and resources become available. The City will continue working with community partners and service providers and will report on progress as actions are implemented.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Pioneer Museum!

Refugees + Immigrants United is thrilled to announce its **2nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration: The Year of the Fire Horse**, in partnership with the **Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum**. Come for a half-day celebration filled with cultural performances, educational experiences, cultural booths, and meaningful connection vibrant AAPI and diverse communities. Last year's celebration was truly unforgettable. Let's celebrate again this year!

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Wearing traditional attire from your country of origin is highly encouraged
FREE and family-friendly!  [Register here](#)



Providing local oversight of Colorado Springs Utilities' Clean Heat Plan

From Utilities:

Recently the Colorado Public Utilities Commission finalized plans to require Xcel, Atmos and Black Hills Energy to cut the carbon emissions from their natural gas systems by 41% in 10 years.

As a community-owned utility, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) is not subject to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission's decision on Clean Heat. However, the utility is required to comply with a separate state mandate to develop a Clean Heat Plan. Unlike investor-owned utilities, the CSU plan is approved by the locally elected Utilities Board (City Council), ensuring decisions are made with the community's priorities in mind.

While the State of Colorado has imposed mandates on natural gas distribution utilities, Colorado Springs Utilities supports customers' right to choose natural gas. As a community-owned utility, CSU has a legal obligation to provide natural gas service to any customer within the service territory who requests it. This commitment ensures that customers maintain the freedom to select the energy source that best meets their needs.

Colorado Springs Utilities' Clean Heat Plan is informed by state targets, but affordability remains the top priority. CSU observes a 2% cost cap on implementation to protect customers from significant rate impacts. This means every step CSU takes toward cleaner energy is balanced with the need to keep utility bills manageable.

The costs CSU incurs to comply with the state mandate are passed on to customers through a Clean Heat Plan bill rider, a temporary charge added to their bill. CSU is committed to transparency and will continue to share information about these costs and how they support a cleaner, more sustainable future for the community. The charge will remain on bills while the Clean Heat Plan is in effect.

The revenue generated from this charge is used for energy efficiency programs. Programs include rebates for energy-efficient water heaters and furnaces, insulation and heat pumps. The rebates give customers an additional incentive to switch to more efficient appliances.

