

In the Loop with Nancy April 2026

Newsletter from Colorado Springs City Councilmember Nancy Henjum

Happy April 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. Make sure you scroll all the way down to learn about many opportunities.

Grateful to serve,

Nancy

Councilmember, District 5 – Colorado Springs

My Vote on the District 2 Appointment

Who do we want our elected officials to be? What backgrounds or expertise should they bring? How many hours per week should they be able to dedicate to City Council business? These questions reflect values that are often in tension.

I raise them to explain why I did not support the candidate selected by the Council majority to replace the District 2 councilmember who resigned rather than face a recall election. My vote was not a judgment of his character or basic qualifications.

Many people are skeptical of so-called “career” politicians, and in Colorado we have limit terms. Another way we discourage long-term service is by paying City Councilmembers little more than an honorary stipend. Since the 1990s, that stipend has been \$6,250 annually—far below what similar roles require in time and responsibility. (As a comparison, El Paso County Commissioners earn nearly \$150,000.)

There are consequences. Council seats are often filled by retirees, business owners or executives with flexible schedules, or those with outside financial support. It also means that institutional knowledge and influence tend to concentrate in the City's executive branch. Most importantly, a typical working resident who must hold a full-time job simply cannot serve.

In my view, that reality limits how representative our City Council can be. And I include myself in that critique. My own consulting business allowed flexibility, and I made a conscious decision after the pandemic to step away and commit fully to public service. I recognize that this is not an option available to most people.

I support paying Councilmembers a living wage. Doing so would require a change to the City Charter.

That brings me back to my vote. The selected candidate is a full-time federal employee who assured us on the record that he has flexibility in his schedule to attend meetings. I hope that flexibility extends to the many additional hours required for adequate preparation and effective constituent work. The candidate I supported, a consultant, committed to restructuring their workload to meet those demands.

Colorado Springs faces increasingly complex challenges. Effective Council service now requires something closer to full-time commitment. At the same time, it is reasonable for residents to want a Council that reflects a broader range of ages and life circumstances. Representative government, assuming that is what we really want, depends on it.

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Update: Vehicle Camping Ordinance

If you have been reading my letter, you know that I voted against the camping ordinance. The passing of this ordinance has become an opportunity to evaluate gaps in the system and continue to improve coordination with the city and providers. In response, the Housing and Homelessness Response Department (HHRD) continues its coordinated work with community partners and City departments to strengthen their shared approach to addressing homelessness. A meeting with Providers hosted by HHRD identified four primary lines of effort: Education, Safe Parking, Diversion, and a Resource Clearinghouse. Progress continues across all four work areas.

- As part of the education effort, HHRD is sharing public-facing information through the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care's Basecamp platform. HHRD also facilitated the kickoff of the 2026 Homelessness Solutions Team, an internal group focused on aligning City staff around shared goals.
- For Safe Parking, HHRD has supported early coordination between program providers and City Planning to help navigate zoning considerations, which are complex given the unique nature of safe parking programs.
- For the Resource Clearinghouse effort, ChangeLine has launched a steering committee and engaged a consultant team to help define potential solutions, with HHRD participating in the process.
- Diversion practices, building upon individual strengths to help people end their homelessness quickly, are also moving forward, with HHRD recently attending Diversion Training hosted by ChangeLine and exploring additional opportunities to expand this practice.

With the PPCoC transition in process, HHRD is pausing further planning for additional provider meetings. This temporary hold will ensure that the PPCoC transition proceeds smoothly and that future convenings are led by the best positioned entity to sustain them. We continue to support and encourage all interested parties to join in membership with the Pikes Peak Continuum of Care.



Town Hall Recap with Councilmember Gold

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Councilmember Gold and I co-hosted a City Council Learning Town Hall on March 26 in the City Council Chambers, and we were blown away by the turnout! 50 engaged residents from all six council districts showed up on a weeknight during the dinner hour (with no food or drink provided!) to learn and ask questions about how City Council works.

Sam Friedman presented on the Council's agenda process, which sparked exactly the kind of thoughtful, lively discussion we were hoping for. Two moments especially stood out. June Waller, who has spent 63 years as an engaged citizen promoting civic participation, shared that this was the first time she had ever received such helpful information about the Council process. That reinforced for both of us why town halls like this matter so much.



Resident Janette Capron also offered a great suggestion: making sure agenda items are read more slowly or displayed on screen so the public can follow along more easily. We agree completely and are working with staff to put that into practice.

We are committed to continuing to educate and engage residents in local government, and we would love to hear your ideas for future town hall topics. What questions do you have? What would you like to learn more about? Reach out anytime. Nancy.henjum@coloradosprings.gov
Kimberly.gold@coloradosprings.gov

Community Notices & Upcoming Events

Front Range Passenger Rail Community Q&A – April 17

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Location:

Kinship Landing
415 S Nevada Ave.

Date: Friday, April 17

Time: 5:30 - 7 p.m.



Have you heard? Colorado's future Front Range passenger train now has a name: the **Colorado Connector**, or **CoCo**. The Front Range Passenger Rail District has been holding community town halls across the state, and the next one right here in Colorado Springs is focused on how downtown businesses can benefit from the planned rail service.



Friday, April 17 | 5:30–7:00 p.m.



Kinship Landing, 415 S. Nevada Ave.

The planned service would connect Fort Collins, Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and communities in between. The first phase of service between Denver and Fort Collins is expected to launch by 2029, with southern expansion to Colorado Springs and Pueblo to follow. A possible ballot measure for funding could appear as early as this November. This is a great chance to learn more and share your input. Visit ridethefrontrange.com for more information.

Volunteer for City Boards, Commissions & Committees – Apply by April 21

City Council is looking for community members to serve on boards and commissions that play a real role in shaping our city. This is a meaningful way to get involved in local governance, and I encourage anyone who is interested to apply. Current openings include:

Historic Preservation Board – one voting member. Advises Council on historic preservation, including review of building and demolition permits in historically zoned areas. Meets the 1st Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

Civil Service Commission – two voting members. Oversees rules for classification, employment, promotion, and conduct of police and fire department employees. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Planning Commission – two voting members. Reviews development applications and proposals. Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

PPACG Community Advisory Committee – one voting member. Advises on regional issues and helps keep the public informed about regional plans and programs. Meets the last Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority – Citizen Advisory Committee – three voting members. Ensures that voter-approved transportation projects and programs are accomplished. Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.



Applications are due Tuesday, April 21, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Apply online at ColoradoSprings.gov/boards, or email applications and resumes to Blongshia Lindsay at Blongshia.Lindsay@coloradosprings.gov. All applicants must reside within the City of Colorado Springs.

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Out Loud Men's Chorus 20th Anniversary Concert

I'm excited to share that the Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special concert and I'm so excited to be singing in it as part of the community chorus! Out Loud has been a meaningful force in our community since 2005 (started at my church FCUCC), creating a welcoming space and inspiring solidarity through song.

I do hope you will come with some friends and family and share this opportunity with others. You will leave feeling joyful and community connected!

Learn more about Out Loud at outloudcsmc.com.



Save the Date: Cragmor & Papeton Neighborhood Meeting – May 7

Mark your calendars for the next Cragmor and Papeton neighborhood meeting! We'll continue the great conversations from earlier this year, including (but not limited to) parks updates and ways to stay involved as the Parks System Master Plan moves forward. I have been working with the neighborhood organization to ensure that we have the conversations you want to have, the way you want to have them!

 **Wednesday, May 7 | 5:30–7:00 p.m.**

 **Edison Elementary School**

And if your District 5 neighborhood hasn't had a meeting yet but you'd like to get engaged, please reach out to me at nancy.henjum@coloradosprings.gov. I'd love to talk about what that might look like. You can also check out [Hey Neighbor](#) to learn more about how to engage in your community.

Boulder Street Closure – Coming Back May 26

As many of you know, School District 11 requested that the City permanently vacate the block of Boulder Street between Nevada Avenue and Weber Street as part of the Palmer High School renovation project. On March 10, City Council deadlocked 4–4 on the proposal, which meant the request was denied. I voted against the closure, along with Councilmembers Donelson, Gold, and Williams.

After reconsideration votes later that month, the matter is now scheduled for a new public hearing on **May 26**. Council has asked District 11 to address safety improvements at other intersections surrounding the school.

It has not been determined yet if there will be public comment at this meeting. It takes a vote of five councilmembers to open the deliberation to include public comment.

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And lastly - if you are still reading - I think it is very important that we are all aware of the budget realities in our city. Specifically let's start with what our Fire Department is facing. Please watch these two stories:

<https://www.fox21news.com/news/local/csfd-experiencing-budget-woes-needs-more-funding/>

<https://www.kktv.com/2026/04/09/colorado-springs-firefighters-raise-concerns-over-hazardous-materials-unit-issues/>

Thank you for reading! As always, I'm grateful for the chance to serve alongside you. If you have questions, ideas, or something going on in your neighborhood you'd like to share, don't hesitate to reach out. And if you haven't yet, sign up for City Council's "At the Dais Newsletter [here](#).

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