

In the Loop with Nancy — July 2026

Newsletter from Colorado Springs City Councilmember Nancy Henjum

Happy summer 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. Note, there will be no August newsletter as I will be out for a bit getting a new hitch for my giddy up! I am having a total hip replacement on August 4. Hopefully, you will see me back on my bike and the trails again very soon. To everyone navigating health, family, mental health, or other challenges – you have my love and support.

Grateful to serve,

Nancy

Councilmember, District 5 – Colorado Springs

Good Neighbors, Near and Far

A few different threads crossed paths this month, and they all point to the same thing: Colorado Springs is a city of good neighbors, and that is something worth celebrating.

June Waller Day – June 30



On June 30, the City of Colorado Springs proclaimed June Waller Day in honor of June's 90th birthday. For six decades, June has worked tirelessly to build a better community. She started her career in housing in 1972 with the Colorado Springs Housing Authority, and she has spent her life closing gaps in housing, opportunity, and belonging, helping launch senior and youth programs and services including the Leon Young Pavilion. June is also the founder of Let's Do It Again, a shop of gently used educational toys for children, with all proceeds donated to local nonprofits, and she co-founded both Colorado Springs Black Women for Political Action and Colorado Springs Survey Service.

It was one of my favorite moments of the year to present June with this proclamation in person. Thank you, June, for six decades of showing up for this community.

Hey Neighbor's 2025 Annual Report

If you don't already know about Hey Neighbor, I encourage you to take a few moments and look through their annual report, which is full of good news for our city and District 5. In 2025 they launched Neighborhood Cafe, a simple program that turns a shared cup of coffee into new Facebook groups, block parties, and cleanups. Their Neighborhood University program now has graduates in 71% of Colorado Springs neighborhoods. These graduates include our own Councilmember Kimberly Gold, who was the program's very first graduate to be elected to City Council.

Fittingly, June Waller was also honored by Hey Neighbor last summer, receiving their Spirit of the Springs Award at the State of the Neighborhoods Luncheon for her decades of community leadership. And in 2026, Hey Neighbor is launching 150 Tables Across COS, an effort to bring neighbors together at 150 tables across the city between May and October.

[Read the full 2025 Annual Report here](#), and learn more about becoming a Neighborhood Leader at heyneighbors.org.

“Do You Know Your Neighbors?” at ENGAGE! Hey Neighbor and Senior Resource Council Connect!

This spring, I had the privilege of co-presenting a keynote with Hey Neighbor's Kelly Bull at the inaugural ENGAGE! Learning More, Living Well conference, hosted by the Senior Resource Council. Our session, “Do You Know Your Neighbors?”, got the whole room talking, so much so that organizers had a hard time getting people to stop! One attendee left the conference having made four new friends, and they are already planning to meet regularly for coffee. That is exactly the kind of connection this work is all about.



Youth Documentary Academy (YDA): Storytelling That Builds Bridges

Last month, I led a delegation from Colorado Springs, all connected to the Youth Documentary Academy (YDA), to an inaugural Juneteenth film festival at the Center for the Healing Arts in Denver and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. Alongside the Sundance Film Festival, YDA presented three films from its 13-year archive, and I joined a post-screening panel with the filmmakers and Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Emeritus Ashley Cornelius.

I regularly attend and engage with community-based organizations across Colorado Springs, and YDA has captured my attention. Each summer, young people from diverse families across our region collaborate with professional filmmakers to tell the stories that matter to them. Their finished films premiere annually to an audience of over 500, with red-carpet fanfare that rivals top film festivals nationwide.



What I love about YDA is watching young people, many who've faced real constraints in their lives, use an art form that, in the words of Bee Vradenburg Foundation Director Claire Swinford, “marries meaning with beauty.” So many of these films hit their audiences right in the heart. In a moment when national discourse can feel hyper-partisan and toxic, watching these films together and letting young people steer our capacity to listen more carefully gives me hope.

YDA's reach goes beyond filmmaking. Completed films air nationally through a partnership with Rocky Mountain PBS and American Public Television's Our Time series, reaching over 80% of PBS stations nationwide. Since 2021, YDA's traveling film festival has reached more than half the high schools in our region, opening the door to peer-to-peer conversations, many about teen mental health.

I see YDA as participatory democracy in action. With Sundance arriving in Colorado next January, YDA is planning a new youth filmmaking conference where participants will attend Sundance and learn alongside storytellers from across the state.

YDA is a product of community partnership across the Pikes Peak region: production support from Pikes Peak State College, high school festival sponsorships from Diversus Health, the Suicide Prevention Partnership, and Peak

Behavioral Health, film premieres through Colorado College's Journalism Institute, and long-standing collaboration with Rocky Mountain Women's Film, Rocky Mountain PBS, and the Independent Film Society of Colorado Springs. YDA's success shows what happens when ordinary citizens come together to elevate the voices of our youth.

I'm supporting YDA and its new statewide youth conference, and I encourage you to do the same. Learn more or give directly at www.youthdocumentary.org/donate, or reach Executive Director Tom Shepard at tom@youthdocumentary.org.

Building a Stronger 911 System

On June 22, I joined city and public safety leadership for a press conference on a proposal for a new 911 Authority. When residents call 911, they are placing trust in a system they believe is ready, resourced, and working on their behalf. This initiative is about making sure that trust is earned, and that the dollars residents already pay are delivering the services those dollars are meant to support. You may be reading about this in the news. I fully support the recommendation of our CSFD and CSPD made after a careful analysis of current EPTC-911 revenue and funding distribution. We will take the time to do this right. We are open to negotiating with the existing 911 Authority to ensure that all parts of the system are well served.



Additionally, alongside Councilmember Rainey, on May 19 we convened a Public Safety Working Committee, working with Chief of Staff Williams, CSFD Chief Royal, CSPD Chief Vasquez, and the Colorado Springs Police Protective Association and Colorado Springs Firefighters Local Five. We established this cross-functional committee to build a shared and accurate understanding of the challenges facing the Colorado Springs Fire Department and Colorado Springs Police Department. The

Committee's purpose is to develop clear, credible, and consistent information that will support a future public education effort regarding the state of public safety service delivery in the city.

A Clear Look at City Finances: 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report

The City of Colorado Springs has released its 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report, a plain-language summary of where your tax dollars went last year and what they accomplished. It's a much easier read than the full audited financial report, and it's worth a look if you've ever wondered how the City is doing financially.

A few highlights: the Colorado Springs Police Department surpassed 800 sworn officers for the first time, and our 911 Call Center reached its highest staffing level since 2018, cutting average response times for the most urgent calls from 15 minutes down to 11. Public Works repaved 187 lane miles of road and repaired more than 74,000 potholes. CSFD launched Colorado's first program connecting people experiencing opioid addiction directly with treatment and recovery resources. And major projects moved forward, including the new Senior Center, Monument Valley Park improvements, and continued work on Marksheffel Road.

The City also closed out 2025 in a stronger financial position, with its net worth growing by more than \$380 million, and it was recognized nationally for making this kind of information easy for residents to understand.

You can read the full report at ColoradoSprings.gov/PAFR.

Republic Services Recycle Tour

On June 16, I toured the Republic Services recycling facility with Councilmember Donelson. It was an extremely informative tour and gave me high confidence in the recycling of the materials that I put into my recycling bin. There are many neighborhoods in District 5 that are organizing to consolidate their trash collection and encourage recycling. Check out [how the city is working](#) with Colorado Circular Communities to reduce waste and expand recycling and composting in Colorado Springs.

