In the Loop with Nancy October 2026

Newsletter from Colorado Springs City Councilmember Nancy Henjum



Happy fall to all District 5 friends and neighbors! This month is full of ways to have a real say in how our city works. And spend time with your ballot and VOTE in the midterm elections by November 3. After you have figured out how you are going to vote on the 47 some items, you can weigh in on the city's 2027 budget, apply to serve on a board or commission, or spend a year learning city government from the inside. I hope you will find something here that fits you.

Grateful to serve,
Nancy
Councilmember, District 5 - Colorado Springs

Your City Budget: I Want to Hear From You



The city budget is where our shared priorities become real. What are your priorities? Potholes, parks, first responders, what matters to you? Every one of us has a stake in getting it right.

On October 5, City Council received Mayor Mobolade's proposed 2027 City Budget. Under the City Charter, Council approves the budget by ordinance, with or without amendments. That means Council can make changes, and your input helps shape them.

There are two great ways to share your thoughts:

- **Reach out to me directly.** Email me at nancy.henjum@coloradosprings.gov and tell me what matters most to you and your neighborhood. I read every message.
- **Speak at the Public Hearing.** Join us Monday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 107 North Nevada Avenue. To sign up to speak, contact Sam Friedman at samuel.friedman@coloradosprings.gov or 719-385-5480.

Key dates for the 2027 Budget

- **Thursday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m.:** Council Budget Work Session
- **Monday, Oct. 26, 5:30 p.m.:** Public Hearing on the 2027 Budget
- **Thursday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m.:** Council Budget Markup Session
- **Tuesday, Nov. 10, 9 a.m.:** First Reading of the Budget Ordinance
- **Tuesday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m.:** Second Reading and final vote

All meetings are held in City Council Chambers and are open to the public. You can also watch on SpringsTV (Comcast Channel 18 and 880 HD, StratusIQ Channel 99) or on the City Council Facebook page. Dates can change, so check ColoradoSprings.gov/CityCouncil for the latest.

We'll Watch the Kids. You Go Vote.

Every eligible voter deserves a fair shot at getting to the polls, and for parents of little ones, that can be the hardest part. I love this idea from one of our local childcare providers.

Unique Play Place in District 5 is offering **free childcare on Thursday, October 29** so parents can drop off their kids, spend time filling out and casting their ballot, and pick them up when they are done. The care is licensed and staffed by caring professionals. **Registration is required**, so please sign up ahead of time.

Register here: Free Childcare to Vote Registration Form



Roads, schools, and libraries are the things we build together so a community can work. As this flyer puts it so well, childcare belongs on that list too.

Need a little inspiration before you fill out your ballot? Watch this short video.

Serve Your City: Two Parks Openings

Some of the most important work in our city happens around a table with volunteers. If you love our parks, trails, and open spaces, here is a chance to help shape their future. You do not need to be an expert. You just need to care about this place and be willing to listen and learn. I JUST celebrated the 3rd and 5th birthdays of my grandkids in one of our most incredible parks – Panorama Park!! We are so fortunate and our parks can benefit from your contribution.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board
This board advises on the planning, improvement, and care of our parks, playgrounds, recreation programs, urban forest, facilities, golf courses, and cemeteries. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m.
Opening: one alternate member.

Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) Working Committee
This committee manages revenue and spending for the voter-approved TOPS fund. It meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. **Opening: one alternate member.**

Apply by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 20. Apply online at ColoradoSprings.gov/boards, or email your application and resume to Blongshia Lindsay at Blongshia.Lindsay@coloradosprings.gov. You can also mail them to City Council, Attention: Blongshia Lindsay, 107 N. Nevada Ave., Suite 300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Applicants must live within the City of Colorado Springs.

If you are curious whether a position might be a good fit, I am happy to talk it through. Just email me at nancy.henjum@coloradosprings.gov.

Apply for the 2027 Mayor's Fellowship

Have you ever wondered how city decisions really get made? The Mayor's Fellowship is a chance to find out. This program gives emerging civic leaders a front-row seat to city government, with time spent alongside city leaders talking through issues like public safety, housing, infrastructure, and economic vitality.

Fellows meet on the third Wednesday of each month from January through October 2027, finishing with a commencement ceremony in November. To apply, you will need a resume, answers to a few application questions, and one letter of recommendation.

Applications close October 31. Learn more and apply at ColoradoSprings.gov/MayorsFellowship.

Natural Gas Pipeline Safety: What Every Neighbor Should Know

As your Colorado Springs Utilities Board representative, I care deeply about the systems that keep our city running smoothly. Our underground natural gas network is a big part of that foundation, quietly delivering clean, reliable energy to homes and businesses across District 5.

Colorado Springs Utilities keeps a continuous monitoring and maintenance program in place so our pipeline system stays safe and dependable year-round. Because safety is a shared responsibility, here are a few important things to know:

- **Know what pipeline markers mean.** Bright orange markers show the approximate location of underground natural gas mains and list emergency contact information. You will usually find them in utility rights-of-way.
- **Recognize the signs of a leak.** Natural gas has no color or smell on its own, so an odorant is added to give it a rotten egg or skunk-like smell. You may also notice blowing dirt, bubbling water, dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area, or a hissing or roaring sound near a gas line.
- **Know what to do if you suspect a leak.** Do not use phones, light switches, or vehicles, or do anything that could create a spark. Move to a safe location and call 911 right away.
- **Install and maintain safety alarms.** Carbon monoxide and natural gas alarms add another layer of protection. Test and maintain them according to the manufacturer's directions.



- **Always contact 811 before digging.** Digging without locating lines first is the leading cause of pipeline damage. Whether you are planting a tree, installing a mailbox, or setting fence posts, Colorado law requires you to contact 811 (colorado811.org) at least three business days before you dig. Lines are located and marked free of charge.

To learn more, visit csu.org/safety/natural-gas. A few simple precautions protect your family, your neighbors, our first responders, and the infrastructure our community depends on every day. Thank you for doing your part!

Boo! Palmer Heights Halloween Parade

Grab your costumes and join the Palmer Heights neighborhood for a Halloween parade on **Saturday, October 31**!

Joining the parade? Decorate your wagons, strollers, and bikes and gather at the Jefferson Park playground at 3:30 p.m. The parade steps off at 4:00 p.m., looping along Lelaray Street, Yuma Street, and Northview Drive.

Live on the route? Play some spooky music, pass out candy, clap and cheer, or even set up a carnival game. It is a wonderful chance to meet the neighbors.





Signing the Civility Pledge September 30, 2026

[The Civility Pledge](#) "I pledge to recognize the value and dignity of every person, treat others accordingly, and practice civility in ways that strengthen my relationships and my community."

The three commitments:
+ See People Rightly + Hear People Well + Engage Disagreement Honorably +

Stay Connected

Thank you for reading and for all the ways you show up for our community. If you have a question, an idea, or a concern, please reach out at nancy.henjum@coloradosprings.gov. You can also find more at nancyforcos.org.