



Castle Rock
**PARKS &
RECREATION**
Monthly Report:
May 2019



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CRgov.com/ParksandRec



parks@CRgov.com



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Upcoming Events

View up-to-date information and register for events at CRgov.com/Events.

JUNE 14	FREE FITNESS FRIDAY 8 - 9 a.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park	JUNE 23	PADDLE DAY 7:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Rueter-Hess Reservoir
JUNE 14	BREAKOUT! SWIM CLINIC WITH JASON LEZAK 8:30 a.m. - noon Butterfield Crossing Pool	JUNE 23	FARMERS MARKET 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Festival Park
JUNE 15	PADDLE DAY 7:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Rueter-Hess Reservoir	JUNE 23	FREE YOGA IN THE PARK 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
JUNE 15	SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: EVERCLEAR WITH SPECIAL GUEST TONIC 6 - 10 p.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park	JUNE 26	BIKE TO WORK DAY 6:30 - 9 a.m. Festival Park
JUNE 16	FARMERS MARKET 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Festival Park	JUNE 26	WILDLIFE MYTHS AND MYSTERIES 6 - 7:30 p.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
JUNE 16	FREE YOGA IN THE PARK 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park	JUNE 28	FREE FITNESS FRIDAY 8 - 9 a.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park
JUNE 20	TUNES FOR TRAILS, PERKS FOR PARKS: BLU ROSE DANCE BAND 6 - 9 p.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park	JUNE 30	FARMERS MARKET 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Festival Park
JUNE 21	FREE FITNESS FRIDAY 8 - 9 a.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park	JUNE 30	FREE YOGA IN THE PARK 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park



Parks, Open Space and Trails

DEPUTY ZACK S. PARRISH III MEMORIAL PARK

Project Contractor GoodLand Construction, Inc. continued construction progress on the future neighborhood park in The Meadows. Located at the intersection of Low Meadow Boulevard and Red Hawk Drive, the park site is planned to include infrastructure for playing pickle ball, bocce ball, cornhole and horseshoes. A playground, picnic shelters, trails and multi-use field will round out the major planned amenities. Crews are placing irrigation, planting trees and installing lighting. Upcoming work will feature surfacing the pickle ball courts, installing amenities such as benches and work-out equipment and placing sod.

The park, which will be named after fallen Douglas County Sheriff Deputy Zack S. Parrish, will feature a memorial to honor both Deputy Parrish, a former Castle Rock Police officer, and the law enforcement profession. The memorial will feature three rolled steel walls, sculptural elements and a small pavilion structure. The memorial is currently being fabricated and will be installed in July.

Planning for a grand opening event is underway and details will soon be announced to formally open the park in August.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN POSTED FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Outdoor amenities make Castle Rock a great place to call home and providing a high level of service is the top priority for the Town's Park and Recreation Department. The Department's 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) sets the vision for parks, open space, trails and recreational projects for the next five years and identifies funding opportunities and constraints. As the department works to update this plan, residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback. Read the draft plan and provide input online at CRgov.com/ParksPlan.

The proposed CIP outlines several potential projects – constructing two new neighborhood parks including one in Cobblestone Ranch; implementing improvements at several existing parks; expanding trail connectivity through Town; and a possible new indoor recreation facility. The department will also continue to dedicate funding for recreation opportunities at Rueter-Hess Reservoir.

"We are fully committed to providing quality services to the community," said Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Brauer. "While that means different things to different people, Castle Rock is so much more than a Town. It's a community where people want their children to be able to play at the neighborhood park, sign up for the summer baseball league or attend wonderful events on the weekend. Helping make the community a home is what moves us to do more."





ANIMALS AROUND THE ROCK TO OFFER ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OFFERINGS IN 2019

Join the Town in partnership with Douglas Land Conservancy to dive into the characteristics that define local wildlife, including raptors, reptiles, bats and other species at Animals Around the Rock. This environmental education series connects kids and families to local wildlife experts and provides accessible opportunities to learn about animal behavior and even meet select wildlife in person. These events are free but donations to the Douglas Land Conservancy are appreciated to help further program.

The 2019 series will feature the five programs, including two new events. Learn more about each offering at CRgov.com/RockAnimals.

BASICS OF BIRD WATCHING CLASSES

A two-part bird-watching educational series was held in May for the general public. This free program has been offered for eight consecutive years to Castle Rock residents. The goal of the offering is to introduce as many people as possible to the enjoyment of birdwatching and to combine wildlife observations with a recreational and social activity. Every year, at least 40 to 50 new individuals attend the program to learn about birds in Castle Rock.

Part one of the series, Basics of Bird-Watching, is an indoor introductory class. Class material focuses on field guides, binoculars, local birding hot spots and general watching tips to encourage more residents to get outside, explore nature and learn about local wildlife.

Part two of the series is an outdoor guided birdwatching walk held on the second Saturday in May. This is an ideal time for birdwatching due to the spring migration patterns. In addition, tree leaves haven't fully budded, which makes birds easier to spot, and local songbirds are actively singing to identify territories around nests.

During this year's guided walk, participants enjoyed the East Plum Creek Trail in the downtown area. Due to the creek's abundance of healthy riparian, a diverse range of migratory songbirds favor the habitat, which provides easy and great bird watching access from downtown or northern Castle Rock neighborhoods. The final count of bird species seen during the 2-hour outdoor guided walk was 20, including Turkey Vultures perched near the creek and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.



Hi Barbara, I just want to thank you and your husband for that interesting and fun guided bird watching tour at Plum Creek. You're a wonderful lady and you're both so knowledgeable. It amazes me so that you both can recognize and name all those beautiful birds from their calls! I went off ahead of the group on our way back as I had to leave a little early, but enjoyed it very much and want to join your group on other walks or trips you may offer.

MARGIE M.



FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Calling All Household CEOs

A unique marketing message helped Castle Rock Aquatics put a dent in its staffing shortage

By **Ashley Allen-Pina**, Aquatics Specialist, and **Courtney Glass**, Fitness Supervisor, Town of Castle Rock



THE AQUATICS DIVISION of the Castle Rock Parks and Recreation Department is certainly not alone in its struggle to hire and keep quality lifeguarding staff. This has been an ongoing issue nationwide, in parks and recreation agencies and private pools alike. The most difficult shifts to cover are during the day, when the majority of the high school and college-aged staff are

in class. In a rapidly growing community such as Castle Rock, the division is also competing against a plethora of other employment options that appeal to newer members of the workforce. In order to alleviate this staff shortage, the division has had to adapt and assess what other resources are available in the community. Collaborating with the department's customer relations program specialist, a new marketing campaign was created targeting a new demographic.

"Calling all Household CEOs! Work a couple days a week from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and be done by the time your kids finish their school day."

This message was posted to the department's social media pages and on TVs throughout town facilities. The goal: to reach parents in the community who are looking to get back into the workforce or just earn a little money during the day while their kids are in school. Emphasis was placed on highlighting the flexibility of working as a lifeguard, not only for high school and college students, but for parents as well. Messaging to the community also included some key benefits of being an employee for the Parks and Recreation Department including free drop-in childcare at the Recreation Center and a free pass to one of the department's two recreational facilities for themselves and their spouses and dependents.

The campaign has been successful thus far and resulted in several new hires and a significant decrease in open shifts during the day. The Aquatics division strives to have a culture that is diverse and flexible, and aims to continue utilizing the vast resources available within the community. o



Aquatics

HOUSEHOLD CEO CAMPAIGN FEATURED IN THE COLORADO PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION'S COLORADO BYLINE MAGAZINE IN JUNE EDITION

The Aquatics Division of the Parks and Recreation Department is certainly not alone in its struggle to hire and keep quality lifeguarding staff. This has been an ongoing issue nationwide, in both publicly and privately ran pools. The most difficult shifts to cover are during the day, when the majority of the high school and college-aged staff are in class. In a rapidly growing community such as Castle Rock, the Division also competes against a plethora of employment options that appeal to newer members of the workforce. In order to alleviate the staff shortage, the Division has had to adapt and assess what other resources are available in the community.

In collaboration with the Department's Customer Relations Program Specialist, a marketing campaign was created to target a new demographic: "Calling all Household CEOs! Work a couple days a week from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and be done by the time your kids finish the school day." This message was posted to social media and on televisions throughout facilities. The goal: to reach parents in the community who are looking to get back into the workforce or just earn a little money during the day while kids are in school. An emphasis was placed on highlighting the flexibility of working as a lifeguard, not only for high school and college students, but for parents as well. Messaging to the community also included some key benefits of being an employee of the Department including free drop-in childcare at the Recreation Center and a free pass to one of the department's two facilities for themselves and their spouses and dependents.

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AQUATICS STAFF WORK HARD TO OPEN POOLS AND SPLASH PADS FOR SUMMER SEASON

Throughout May, the Town of Castle Rock Aquatics Division worked to officially open two outdoor pools - Burgess Memorial and Butterfield Crossing – and the two splash pads at Philip S. Miller and Festival parks. Each of these facilities provides a different aquatic experience to patrons, from the elite competitive swimmer to the toddler experiencing water play for the first time.

In preparation for the summer, Aquatics leadership held a staff orientation at the Recreation Center on Saturday, May 18. Over 100 swim instructors, coaches and lifeguards were present. Staff reviewed policies and procedures, emergency action plans and the daily operations of each pool. Cliff Fitch, employee of Castle Rock Fire and Rescue (CRFR), joined to teach a “hand off” course. This course provides the information and communication that CRFR responders seek from lifeguards when they arrive on site during emergencies. Lifeguards continued their orientation with in-water skills training in extrications, scanning vigilance, CPR, First Aid and customer service.

Opening the outdoor pools and splash pads demonstrates an excellent example of Castle Rock’s Town Values. It is a multi-department coordinated effort requiring assistance from Human Resources, Facilities, Recreation, Castle Rock Water, Parks, the Division of Innovation and Technology, Public Works and Castle Rock Fire and Rescue. The Aquatics Division is very appreciative of the efforts of all Castle Rock employees who assisted with the preparation of the 2019 season.

Butterfield opened to the Cruisers Swim Team for practices on May 14 despite chilly weather and snow. On May 19, the pool experienced use from over 300 athletes at the annual Tri the Rock youth triathlon. On a daily basis throughout the summer, Butterfield will host the Rock USA Swim team, the Cruisers’ swim meets and practices, the Masters Swim Team and swim lessons of the Learn to Swim program. This year, the pool will also feature a one-day swim clinic ran by Olympic gold medalist Jason Lezak on Friday, June 15. The 2019 summer season will conclude with the annual Pooch Plunge fundraising event on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Burgess Memorial Pool offers amenities for swimmers of every age, and is an especially big hit with the Department’s Rock Rec Camp participants who visit twice every week. Burgess entertains outside groups, camps and birthday parties on a daily basis. This year, the pool experienced nine inches of snow just four days before opening on Saturday, May 25.

The splash pads both opened on Memorial Day and will be enjoyed by thousands of families and pets throughout the summer.





Athletics and Adventure

FREE WEEKLY HIKE PROGRAM COMPLETES INAUGURAL YEAR

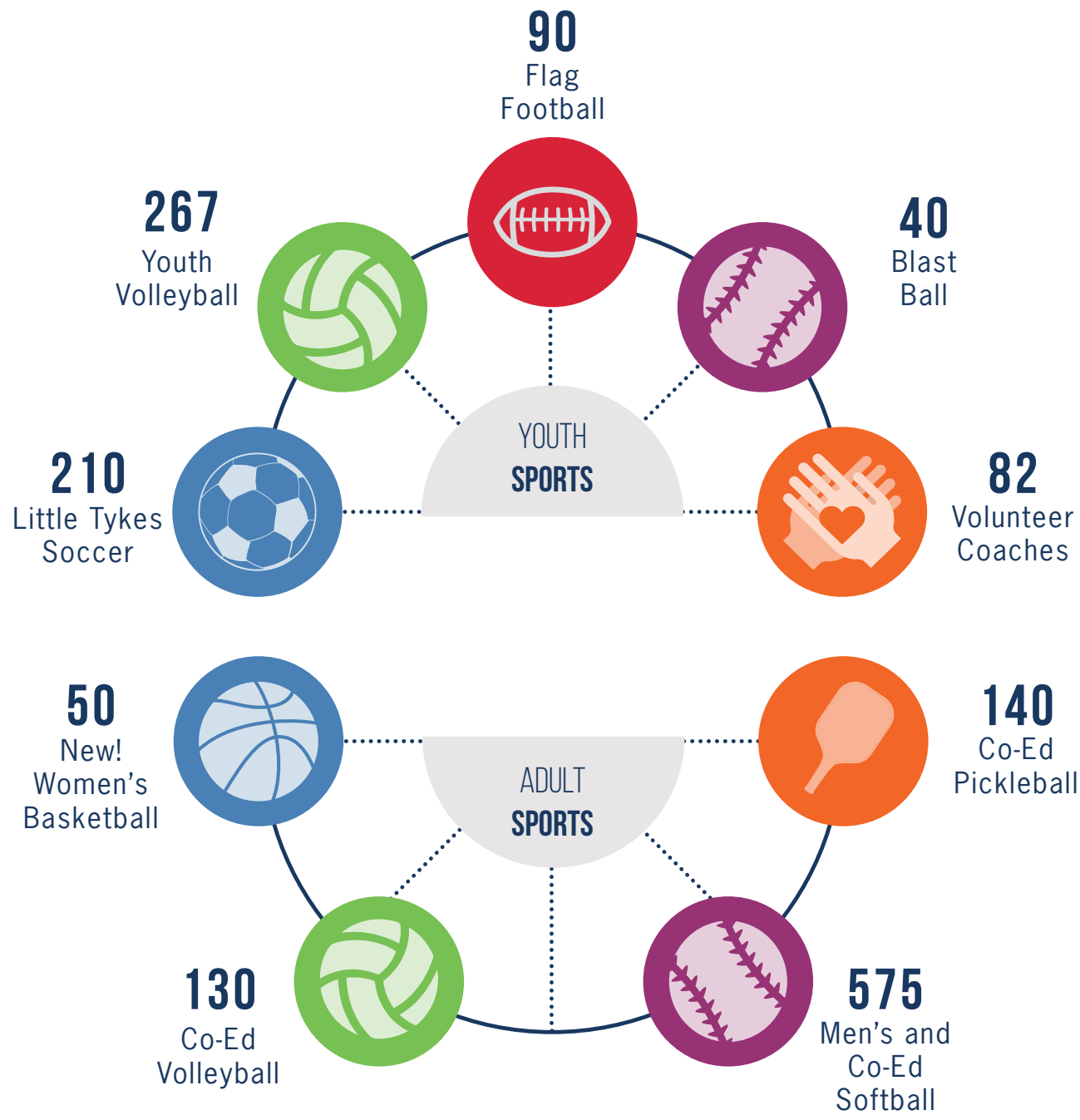
Just over one year ago, new Department employee Tarra Williams felt inspired to start a free weekly hiking program. William's inspiration stemmed from the simple fact that immediately after moving to Castle Rock, Williams began to discover the abundant number of hiking opportunities in Castle Rock and Douglas County. "I really wanted to get to know all of the trails so I started a Wednesday morning hiking group," stated Williams. "In speaking with people on the hikes, even with residents who have lived in Castle Rock for many years, I noticed that many people just don't know about all of the parks and trails available right in their own backyard. And so the journey began to get people outdoors to explore their local trails and open space. I love the opportunity to see all of the beauty that our Town and surrounding areas have to offer."

Since April 2018, 30 hikes have been offered on 18 different trails including six snowshoe hikes. Each week, roughly 10 to 20 hikers join Williams depending on the weather and time of year. A few of the group's favorite hikes include Mitchell Creek Canyon and Daniels Park. For more information on future hikes visit CRgov.com/Registration and select Outdoor Recreation.





SPRING PARTICIPATION NUMBERS





Education

ADVENTURE CLUB PRESCHOOL

The Parks and Recreation Department's Adventure Club Preschool offers a secure, enriching and nurturing environment where children are able to establish the solid educational foundations required for success in future academic and social endeavors. Adventure Club serves ages two and a half through five and offers state-licensed Junior Preschool, Preschool and Prekindergarten programs.

A graduation ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 22 at the close of the 2019-2020 school year. Due to inclement weather, the event was held inside the Recreation Center. Hundreds of family members celebrated as 63 prekindergarten children sang songs for the parents and walked across the stage to receive diplomas. A reception followed.

Registration is already demonstrating strong enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year, which opened on Tuesday, Jan. 22. All morning classes are full and the afternoon 5-day class is also full at this time. To meet demand, staff will be offering an additional three-day prekindergarten class for the first time ever. As a result, every available classroom will be full with Adventure Club programs each day. With only 28 spots remaining, people are encouraged to register in person with Youth Specialist Mindy Fortin at the Recreation Center.

A participant survey was administered at the close of the 2019-2020 school year. After reviewing the surveys, staff found that many parents believe the drop-off and pick-up process can be improved. The Division will be reviewing this process for next year to implement changes to better serve families.



PARENT SURVEY RESULTS



Overall satisfaction with program:

4.55/5



Child's overall experience is positive:

4.79/5

"We love the Adventure Club Program. My daughter has always felt safe and welcome, we always felt safe and welcome, and we feel it has adequately prepared her to proceed to kindergarten. Ms. Megan and Ms. Elizabeth are wonderful, caring teachers and have made the pre-k experience a positive one."



Recreation Facilities

MILLER ACTIVITY COMPLEX NORTH FIELD PROJECT COMPLETE

Since opening in November 2014, the North Field of the Miller Activity Complex (MAC) has been one of the most highly utilized areas of the facility. Initially planned for youth and low-impact activity participation, the demands of the public and a larger interest in soccer and lacrosse required Department staff to allow for increased team sport and camp usage. In addition, the high-density and high-velocity balls utilized in these sports created both inherent safety hazards and accumulated facility damage that required immediate attention.

It was determined the best solution would be to install a permanent boarding system with extended netting. This new system is designed to contain the field of play and reduce the likely hood of injury and facility damage due to players and equipment leaving the field. In addition to improving the safety of the players and spectators, staff also repaired the accumulated damage to the facility walls from ball impact. The construction phase of the project began on April 2, 2019 with the completed field reopening to the public on May 13.

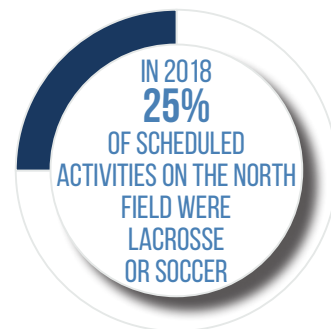
The project's scope included:

- Adjusting the existing batting cage to fit the boarding system footprint
- Surveying and plot layout
- Cutting back existing turf
- Excavating and pouring a concrete footer
- Installing the boarding system and netting
- Reinstalling the existing turf around the new system
- Replacing the liner wall panels and extending additional panels further up
- Replacing the window shades on the east wall
- Painting the west wall

The addition of the boarding system created space and the opportunity for the installation of a functional fitness area on the western portion of the North Field. Functional fitness is utilizing everyday movements to build strength, endurance and cardiovascular health. Through the newly opened area, there is now a space at the MAC to accommodate the fitness needs of adults. Access is included with paid general admission and will be available on a walk-in basis. Equipment utilized in the Functional Fitness area was relocated from previous fitness equipment purchases. Group fitness classes and personal training opportunities are also now available.

Functional fitness area equipment includes:

- Stationary fan bikes
- Plyometric boxes
- Chin-up/dip bars
- Sleds
- Ropes
- Tires
- Free weights, kettlebells and exercise balls
- Balance trainer





Fitness and Wellness

FREE SUMMER FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES RETURN TO PHILIP S. MILLER PARK

Enjoy free fitness programming in a variety of formats all summer long at The Amphitheater at Philip S. Miller Park. Challenge yourself by trying a new and fun fitness format from 8-9 a.m. during Fitness Fridays. Relax and unwind with Yoga in the Park from 8-9 a.m. on Sundays. Classes are open to all fitness levels and the whole family is welcome to attend. For a full list of class dates and details, visit CRgov.com/SummerFitness.





RED HAWK RIDGE

GOLF TOURNAMENT AT RED HAWK RIDGE RAISES MONEY FOR LOCAL VETERANS

On May 16, the Douglas County Veterans Monument Foundation (DCVMF) held the annual veterans golf tournament at Red Hawk Ridge Golf Course. The tournament is the largest fundraising effort for the DCVMF, a Douglas-county based nonprofit providing assistance to local veterans. This was the second year the tournament was held at Red Hawk, and it is always held the week leading up to Armed Forces Day recognizing all veterans and active duty military.



The tournament experienced a full field with 144 golfers. At the event's opening ceremony, a United States flag was unveiled through an AirLife helicopter as it landed on the driving range. The air crew delivered the flag to Detective Dan Brite of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Brite, a decorated veteran of the United States Marine Corp, was injured on an active shooter incident in September 2016. Brite accepted the flag and brought it to Red Hawk's Clubhouse where it was handed off to the American Legion Post 1187 of Castle Rock. The American Legion then marched the flag in front of the group and posted the "colors" while local musician Sal Mancini sang the national anthem. A moment of silence was held for the fallen while South Metro Firefighter Dave Carrigan played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. As the field of golfers were sent out to begin play, the helicopter flew over the golf course in a ceremonial "fly

over," closing the opening ceremonies and kicking off the tournament. The event concluded with lunch, raffle, prizes and silent auction.

The DCVMF provides financial aid to local veterans via a grant program. It is due to the success of this annual tournament that the organization is able to provide grants of up to \$2,000. Grant requirements include meet three criteria: reside in Douglas County, have proof of honorable service and demonstrate a financial need. Grant applications are vetted through the all-volunteer board of directors. Once approved, the financial assistance is paid directly to the need. Past grants have helped cover mortgage and rent payments, auto and furnace repairs and groceries.

A tournament of this scale could not have been accomplished without the great work of the staff at Red Hawk. Staff members worked diligently to prepare the golf course for the event. The maintenance crews had everything in excellent condition and installed United States flags along the course. The service staff had every cart in the fleet ready to go and assisted in getting all golfers and sponsors to the correct location. The food and beverage employees knocked it out of the park with breakfast, lunch and beverage service. The proshop staff remained flexible and catered to all needs ensuring the experience was perfect. With a ton of moving parts, the teamwork of staff ensured every single request was met.

RED HAWK'S SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Enjoy free live music on the patio, drink specials and a limited specialty menu from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on select Saturdays at the Red Hawk Ridge Clubhouse.





Community Events

THE INAUGURAL FIRST FRIDAYS CONCERT SERIES IS SET TO BEGIN IN JUNE WITH FUN RUNS

On the first Friday of the month, June through September, head to Festival Park to enjoy free live music, food trucks, cocktails and more. With yard games, family-friendly activities and a themed run/walk, First Fridays are perfect nights to bring the entire family Downtown. Live music begins at 5 p.m. The festivities continue until 9 p.m. Learn more at CRgov.com/FirstFridays.

06.07 DUELING PIANOS | POKER RUN 5K

07.05 RED NOT CHILI PEPPERS | PATRIOT 5K

08.02 MIKE NASH & THE SOUTHERN DRAWL BAND | BEERDED 5K

09.06 ARTRAGEOUS | ART RUN 5K

CLIMB4CHANGE EVENT RAISED OVER \$6,000 FOR ADAPTIVE RECREATION

The REAL Climb4Change Adaptive Recreation fundraiser was held on Saturday, May 11. Volunteers, businesses and families with children with cognitive and physical disabilities banded together to host this race up the 200-step Challenge Hill at Philip S. Miller Park. This year's event offered participants many opportunities to ascend the 178 vertical feet of climb. Racers could do a single timed race to the top of the Challenge Hill, complete a 30-minute trail race up and down the steps, climb the stairs up and race down the switchbacks for 5k, do the power hour up-and-down for 60 minutes or just run for fun. This year's Climb4Change raised over \$6,000 to further the mission of ensuring everyone in the community has access to recreational opportunities.

ANNUAL YOUTH TRIATHLON EXPERIENCES GREAT SUCCESS

On Sunday, May 29, nearly 400 youth triathletes ages 5 to 14 competed at Tri the Rock, the Town's annual event held at Butterfield Park and Pool. Tri the Rock encourages kids to get active and try something new. To that end, the school with the most participants gets the honor of displaying the Tri the Rock trophy for the next year along with a pizza party! The event experienced a tie – congratulations are in order for both Aspen View Academy and Renaissance Magnet School.

PEDAL THE MOON TO BE HELD AT FESTIVAL PARK IN 2019

The annual family bike ride, Pedal the Moon, is slated to return to Festival Park for the ninth annual event in 2019. On Friday, July 12, participants will ride either a 3-mile or 12-mile course along the East Plum Creek Trail from Douglas County High School or Castle Rock Middle School, respectively. Once at Festival Park, riders will enjoy glow-in-the-dark bike decorations, a weenie roast and giveaways. Also, new this year, Colorado State University's (CSU) Department of Physics will offer multiple telescopes for up-close moon and star viewing. Kids can also enjoy other fun activities presented by CSU's Little Shop of Physics. Riders are welcome to ride back to starting points or can arrange for pickup at Festival Park.