

March 2018

Willow Works

The Monthly Newsletter of Willow Creek Homeowners Association #3

Community Directory

Website: Willowcreek3.com

WC3 Board of Directors:

Jay Weber
Fred Kremer
Bob Bartlett
Martin Garrity
Jerry Grant
Aidan O'Shea
Laura Ream

WC3 Manager

Spectrum Commercial
Real Estate Solutions
Greg Coleman
gcoleman@scre.us
303-409-6000
www.DenverCommercial.com

Pool Management:

Perfect Pools 303-795-1191
hb@perfect-pools.com

Swim Team:

swim@wc3dolphins.com

Willow Works Newsletter:

Porchlink Media, LLC:
720-295-2649
kerri@porchlink.com

Trash Removal/Recycling:

Waste Management:
303-797-1600

Willow Creek Women's Club

willowcreekwomensclub@gmail.com
Co-Presidents:
Kathryn Schindler: 303-740-8507
Fiona Maguire-O'Shea
fiona_emeraldisle@yahoo.com

Tennis Keys & Pool Keycard:

Amanda Phifer: 303-409-6018

Clubhouse Manager:

Deanna Mumfrey:
720-933-0785
wc3clubhouse@comcast.net

Letter from the Board

It should come as no surprise that information written for the Letter from the Board in the *Willow Works* is produced almost two weeks in advance in order to meet Porchlink's deadline for the latest edition of WW. That's quite obvious in last month's edition when an article addressed the neighborhood survey in the past tense. The information was to be gathered after the Feb. 2 deadline and the results completed for a later article. Such was not the case. Someone posted the survey link on Nextdoor website allowing nonresidents to express their feelings and possibly skew the results. Thanks to the observant staff at Spectrum (Willow Creek III's management company), the survey was closed to prevent any further contamination.

After careful consideration, the Board agreed to repost the survey with several guidelines. The results will not be made known until long after this article is published. Let's hope residents respect the second attempt to conduct this survey. More later.

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Speaking of Porchlink, publisher Kerri Watts received an inquiry from a resident wanting to know why *Willow Works* was behind two months in printing the HOA's board minutes. To answer that question, it's not behind; the board was. But not anymore. Porchlink has agreed to publish both the January and February minutes in the March edition.

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Your board members are going the "extra mile" to get the answers or concerns you may have about WC3 activities, policies and procedures. If you have questions about facilities or the clubhouse, Aidan O'Shea is the person to see. Questions about the swimming pool, see Martin Garrity. Other topics and the responding board members: Finance/Reserve Study - Fred Kremer; Tennis courts - Jerry Grant; Covenants/policies - Laura Ream and Jerry Grant; Ting Internet - Jay Weber; ACC - Aidan O'Shea.

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If all goes well in March, residents will be able to contact each board individually via email. Spectrum is in the process of setting up a mailbox that will direct emails to a specific board member. More later.

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Have you notice various signs around the neighborhood asking pet owners to pickup after their pets? The issue has gained more attention recently as the greenbelts and pathways are litterly littered with poop! Several signs plastered to mailboxes ask pet owners to be considerate and politely pickup up after your pet. One townhome owner goes as far as attaching several plastic shopping bags to a tree (in case an owner needs a bag to clean up the dirty deed).

Willow Creek Women's Events

Sponsored by Willow Creek Women's Club



Spice Up Your Cooking! Wednesday, March 21 – 9:15 a.m.

Ladies Night Out at Slattery's Irish Pub- Date to follow

Willow Creek 3 HOA Board Meeting: January 11, 2018

Call to Order: Laura Ream called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Board members present: Laura Ream, Fred Kremer, Bob Bartlett, Aidan O'Shea, Martin Garrity and Jerry Grant. Jay Weber was not in attendance. Greg Coleman and Marta Yates of SCRES were also present. Quorum was established.

Homeowner Forum

- Townhome owner has had a light out in front of townhome since November and needs it repaired. Greg responded that all lights that needed replacing or repaired had been identified as having electrical problems. Most have been repaired and Greg will follow up to make sure the one outside townhome unit is fixed.

Committee and Officer Reports

- **Landscape:** Elizabeth Wood of JBK Landscape reported the need for a 3rd winter watering at a cost of 8 hrs@\$65/hr.

Motion to approve a 3rd winter watering at a cost of 8 hrs@\$65/hr was made by Fred Kremer and seconded by Jerry Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

JBK explained that if the Board would like annual flowers planted in spring they need to make a decision at this meeting because starting plants from seed needs to begin mid-January. The other option would be to fill beds in with more perennials.

Motion to approve planting perennials and adding edging not to exceed \$1,000 was made by Martin Garrity and seconded by Fred Kremer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ACC:** There were no requests this month.
- **Social:** No report.
- **Website:** No report.
- **Welcoming:** No report.

Vacated Board Position

- Jay Weber resigned from the Board of Directors, leaving an open position on the Board. It was determined that Martin Garrity would be appointed to the 3-year position and Jay Weber would be appointed to the 1-year position left open by Martin Garrity.

Motion to nominate Jay Weber to be appointed to a 1-year term to the Board was made by Jerry Grant and seconded by Bob Bartlett. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to appoint Jay Weber President of the Willow Creek 3 Board of Directors was made by Fred Kremer and seconded by Jerry Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, 2018 MINUTES

- The December 11, 2018 minutes were submitted to the Board for review and approval to file for audit.

Motion to approve the December 11, 2017 Board Meeting minutes with changes was made by Laura Ream and seconded by Fred Kremer. Motion passed. There were 2 abstentions.

Revised minutes to Website Committee to be posted to website.

Approval Of December 2017 Operating Report

The October, November and December 2017 operating reports were not approved. The Board deferred the approval of the financials due to significant questions regarding the auditor's instructions regarding adjusting entries. The Board would like to meet with accountant before contacting auditor to understand auditor adjustments made in operating reports. They would like to see the reserve accounts split out, showing all five separately. Board would like the Balance Sheet formatted in the style Spectrum generated before switching to Caliber. Laura Ream requested a copy of the bank statements.

Managing Agent Report

Action List:

- Item: Greg Coleman and Jerry Grant are close to finishing the walk through of potential issues regarding sidewalk trip hazards. When finished they will present a scope of work to concrete companies to bid.

- Item: 7936 E Phillips Cir. drain pan coming out of garage has heaved. Greg and Jerry looked at the garage pans during their inspection. There are quite a few small one inch trip hazards in the driveways and sidewalks.

Delinquency Status Report: The Board discussed approving delinquent homeowner accounts before they are sent to collections. There was discussion regarding the number of homeowners on the delinquency report and what the attorneys were doing with regard to collecting past due accounts.

Collection Status Report: Not reviewed.

Unfinished Business

- Paver Project. Jerry Grant volunteered to take over the paver project. Aidan O'Shea and Martin Garrity volunteered to work with Jerry. There are options that need to be identified, i.e. underground downspouts. The board would like to seek volunteers for the Paver Committee through the website and the Willow Works.

- Lighting. Greg reported Colorado Lighting had most of the lighting problems solved. The lights in the open space are being converted to LED as they go out.

- Ting Internet. Board waiting for response from Ting regarding changes to contract. The main concern related to insisting Ting be responsible for locating and repairing damage to underground sprinkler and electrical lines.

- 2018 Survey. The survey is not ready to send to homeowners. Discussion ensued regarding how to distribute survey to the homeowners. It was decided to email to homeowners and to have Kinko's mail with a stamped return envelope to those owners without email. Survey to be distributed by 1/19/18 with a drop dead return date of 2/2/18.

New Business

- December Clubhouse Rentals: The Clubhouse was used 20 days in December.

- Alley Pavement: \$75,000 is budgeted for alley pavement in 2018. Seven townhome alleys have been identified as needing repairs. The Board approved a motion electronically to have Jay work with Greg to negotiate with paving companies to get the best price..

Motion to ratify the electronic vote was made by Martin Garrity and seconded by Jerry Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

- Guest Parking: Guest Parking signs exist in a number of townhome alleys. Several residents questioned how the parking is being enforced. There was discussion regarding policy and it was determined there is no enforcement policy.

A Motion to leave the Guest Parking signs in place but not enforce any action against violators was made and seconded. Motion approved with 3 yes, 2 no and 1 abstention.

- Laura Ream's List. Due to time constraints, Laura's List was not discussed in tonight's meeting. She has requested to be first on the New Business items for February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. Next meeting will be held February 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

Submitted by Marta Yates, Recording Secretary

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Willow Creek 3 HOA Board Meeting: February 8, 2018

Call to Order: Jay Weber called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Board members present: Jay Weber, Laura Ream, Fred Kremer, Bob Bartlett, Aidan O'Shea, Martin Garrity and Jerry Grant. Greg Coleman and Marta Yates of SCRES were also present. Quorum was established.

Homeowner Forum

- H/O thanked the Board for all their hard work. He would like the City to put up "slow down" signs by the playground and dog waste receptacles installed in the Townhome greenbelt areas.

- H/O complained about receiving a violation letter stuck under the windshield wiper blade of his truck which was parked in his driveway. He does not want anyone to come onto his property.

Motion to send a letter of violation to homeowner if vehicle is in their driveway and a violation notice may be placed under a windshield wiper blade if vehicle is on the street was made by Martin Garrity and seconded by Laura Ream. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee and Officer Reports

- **Landscape:** Elizabeth Wood of JBK Landscape reported the 3rd winter watering at a cost of 8 hrs@\$65/hr was done and she is requesting approval for a 4th winter watering at 8 hrs@\$65/hr.

Motion to approve a 4th winter watering at a cost of 8 hrs@\$65/hr was made by Martin Garrity and seconded by Laura Ream. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ACC:** No report.

- **Social:** A Willow Creek 3 event is scheduled for March 9th. The Committee Chair, Fiona O'Shea, is requesting a Social Committee petty cash fund of \$1,000 in the form of either a Debit card or check deposited in a Social account. The Chair suggested that the clubhouse be booked online and key list entry system for clubhouse instead of a clubhouse key would be beneficial. Spectrum was requested to look into how Willow Creek I & II clubhouse reservations and clubhouse access are done.

Motion to establish a \$1,000 petty cash fund for the Social Committee was made by Laura Ream and seconded by Martin Garrity. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Swim Team:** Laura Ream asked the Board to consider 2 nights of practice a week on Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. using only 2 lanes. She would also like the Swim Team to be able to use the clubhouse for their team meetings at no charge if not booked within 48 hours of the meeting (other Willow Creek swim teams do not have to pay for use of their clubhouses). She asked if the coaches are allowed to give private swim lessons. She also requested the team be allowed to have a one night camp out on the tennis courts. The pool is scheduled to be open May 13th.

- **Website:** Bob Correll reported that a Google map of all the Willow Creeks including clubhouse locations has been uploaded to the HOA page of the website. He had a follow-up question regarding the Board g-mail account. Martin Garrity requested the account name and password be forwarded to him and he will test it.

- **Welcoming:** No report.

APPROVAL OF January 11, 2018 MINUTES

- The January 11, 2018 minutes were submitted to the Board for review and approval to file for audit.

Motion to approve the January 11, 2018 Board Meeting minutes with no changes was made by Jerry Grant and seconded by Martin Garrity. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval Of December 2017 and January 2018 Operating Report

Motion to approve for audit the December 2017 financials as revised with the exclusion of the reserve balance was made by Martin Garrity and seconded by Fred Kremer. Motion passed unanimously.

The January 2018 operating report was not approved. There were concerns regarding the audit adjustments, they can't follow the townhouse reserves money trail. There seems to be a \$45,000 difference in the 2015 & 2016 audits. It was requested there be a meeting between Donna, the Auditor and Treasurer scheduled to be held within 2 weeks. Greg Coleman requested Board input/comments on the financials before the meetings so he can respond in a timely manner.

Managing Agent Report

Action List:

- Item: The excessive water consumption from townhomes has been located and resolved.
- Item: Survey Monkey survey was emailed and letters sent on 1/23/18 and again 2/2/18. It was noticed by Homeowners and Board that some people got the first email and not the second and some got the second and not the first. Have Amanda check list to see what the issue could be.

Delinquency Status Report: It was decided that when a Homeowner account reaches \$1,000 they are to be sent to collections. By the time Homeowner reaches a deficit of \$1,000 all notices per the Collection Policy should have been received by Homeowner. There is an account description that says there is a balance from the previous management company, it has been requested to find out the breakdown from old to new account.

Collection Status Report: Not reviewed.

Continued on page 7



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WC3 Swim Team

The swim team board is ramping up for summer swim team. We are excited for another fun swim season for all of our swimmers!!!

SWIM TEAM SPIRIT DAY - Mark your calendars for Swim Team Spirit Day on March 19th! Wear your swim team shirts, pants, hats, etc. to school to support our neighborhood swim teams!! Kids LOVE seeing that their friends swim to-one more commonality to unite the kids and families of Willow Creek! There will be a flyer to download on www.wc3dolphins.com and share with friends.

SPONSORS - we are looking for sponsors for the 2018 Summer Swim Team season. If you own a small business and would like to participate, please email fundraising@wc3dolphins.com to receive the sponsorship packet. Sponsorships with the WC3 Swim Team will allow for unique and exclusive access to the parents within Willow Creek 3 as well as the surrounding areas. Our swim team season runs for 10 weeks with the swimmers and parents at the pool 6 days a week. While it is a short season, the swim team experience is intense. Please contact fundraising@wc3dolphins.com for a sponsorship packet.

REGISTRATION- we anticipate registration to open mid-March. The calendar is updated with swim meets, end of the year party, and other important dates.

Please stay tuned to

www.wc3dolphins.com for more info.

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March 2018 ACC Corner

Submitted by Jeffrey Stevens

In the spring the ACC does the first walk-around. During this time the ACC's goal is to keep the communities' exterior in harmony with covenants and guidelines. This is the time when the paint notices are sent, fence repairs are mentioned, mailbox replacement/repairs noted and other needed exterior maintenance is brought to the homeowners' awareness. The walk-around will occur in March and perhaps extend into April.

Just a note; exterior maintenance does not need an ACC notice to occur. Some homeowners wait until they receive a notice to paint or repair fences and others tackle this on their own. Either process works as the goal is to keep WC III well-maintained and a desirable place to live.



Be Alert For Coyotes

Although coyote incidents within our Willow Creek community appear to be down recently, it's important not to become complacent. According to the Colorado Department of Parks & Wildlife, February and March are the primary months for coyotes to mate, followed by the births of pups within about 60 days. Coyotes can be especially territorial during these times.

Although threatening encounters between coyotes and humans are not common, pets are a different story. Be alert at all times when a pet is outside, even if in your fenced yard.

If needed, here are some phone numbers: Centennial Animal Services, 303 325-8070; Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 303 291-7227; 911 for emergencies.



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Willow Creek 3 HOA Board Meeting: February 8, 2018

Continued from page 4

Unfinished Business

- **Lighting.** Two bids were received from lighting companies to do night light checks and to replace bulbs or repair fixture. The Board has requested that no lighting company be contracted to do this job. That Spectrum should be responsible for the light checks and bulb replacement and repair.

- **Sidewalk and garage ramps.** There was discussion regarding the grinding of the sidewalk cracks. It was brought up the grinding concrete may cause cancer. It was requested that pricing obtained be broken down between grinding the cracks and replacing the concrete. It was requested that two bids be obtained for this project.

- **Ting Internet.** Jay Weber has worked with Ting on contract items. Most of the HOA requested revisions were made in the contract.

Motion to accept the Ting Internet Agreement as revised by Willow Creek 3 Board of Directors was made by Martin Garrity and seconded by Bob Bartlett. Motion passed unanimously.

- **2018 Survey Update.** Laura Ream reported there were 239 surveys returned by email and 6 by USPS. She requested another email blast go out to homeowners reminding them their survey need to be received February 20th.

New Business

- **Laura Ream's List:** #1 on the list is updating the covenants and policies.

Motion to have Laura Ream Chair a committee to review the covenants and policies was made by Laura Ream and seconded by Martin Garrity. Motion passed unanimously.

Fred Kremer and Bob Bartlett volunteered to be on this committee.

#2 on list is change meeting code of conduct and enforce it. It was discussed there should be a Board member assigned to a specific area as lead committee member to answer questions at the monthly meetings.

Board assignments: Facilities and clubhouse: Aiden O'Shea; ACC Liaison: Aiden O'Shea; Swimming pool: Martin Garrity; Finance/Reserve Study: Fred Kremer; Tennis courts: Jerry Grant; Covenants/policies: Laura Ream and Jerry Grant; Ting Internet: Jay Weber.

- **Community Update:** Studio 6 development at 9105 E Mineral Circle. After discussion ensued it was decided that a formal protest needs to be sent to the City Planner. Bob Bartlett volunteered to draft the protest.

Motion to send a formal protest to the City Planner regarding the planning of a Studio 6 development was made by Laura Ream and seconded by Martin Garrity. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Alley Pavement:** Identify and contact which contractors to ask to submit proposals on this project.

- **Reserve Study:** Jerry Grant, Fred Kremer and Aiden O'Shea to review and recommend updates to the Reserve Study.

- **January Clubhouse Rentals.** Spectrum to find out how Willow Creek 1 & 2 book clubhouse reservations online and how residents gain entrance for an event other than a physical key. It was also determined the swim team and the women's club be allowed to use the clubhouse at no cost with the caveat that they schedule one week out from meeting date and the clubhouse is not reserved. These two entities will be placed under Non-Revenue Generating Uses.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Next meeting will be held March 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

Submitted by Marta Yates, Recording Secretary

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Community News & Information



The townhouse alleyways are not for parking. Please do not park any vehicle or have any contractor park their vehicle in the alleyways at any time. The only exception is for short term loading and unloading.

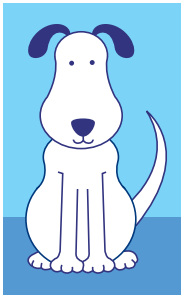
Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

ACC meets every 1st Monday of the month.

Meetings are held at 6:00 PM at the Willow Creek Clubhouse III
8091 East Phillips Circle.

Don't forget to clean up after your pet when dog walking. The city of Centennial (municipal code 7-7-320) as well as Willow Creek 3 policies, require that pet owners remove and dispose of pet waste on any property other than that of the owner or keeper. In other words, when you are out and about with your dog, don't leave a mess. City fines start at \$50 and can include a Municipal Court appearance. And if you see someone not following the rules, please let them know. Also, both Willow Creek 3 and the city require that dogs be leashed and under control when out in the community.



Crime Stats

Interested in knowing the crime statistics for our community? Check out RAIDSONline, a crime mapping service.

Visit www.raidsonline.com. You can buffer an address or simply scroll/zoom to where you are interested.

Willow Creek Women's Events

Sponsored by Willow Creek Women's Club

Submitted by Anne Bonelli McMahon

Spice Up Your Cooking

Wednesday, March 21 at 9:15 a.m.

Mineral Clubhouse, 8500 E. Mineral Dr.

Spice up your cooking and wake up your tastebuds! Jenny from the Savory Spice Shop in Littleton will show us how good, fresh spices and spice blends can give old dishes pizzazz and make cooking delicious foods easy. Come sample foods and spice up your coffee!

Ladies Night Out

Slattery's Irish Pub

The Willow Creek Women's Club will gather to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Slattery's Irish Pub, the weekend prior to the holiday on March 10-11. Details will be available as soon as they are released. Slattery's Irish Pub is located at The Landmark, 5364 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, 80111. For more information, email fiona_emeraldisle@yahoo.com or visit www.slatterysirishpub.com. Please join us!

Willow Creek Women's Club Board Meetings

First Wednesday of the month. 6:30 p.m. at Willow Way Clubhouse. All Willow Creek Women's Club members are welcome to attend.

New Volunteer Orientation

Willow Creek Women's Club (WCWC) will hold a New Volunteer Orientation from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 7 at the Willow Way Clubhouse. All Willow Creek women are invited to attend!

Save the Date: WCWC will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary Thursday, April 12. For more information or to help on the planning committee, please contact Juhi Johnson at homesbyjuhi@gmail.com.

Join the board! This spring the following WCWC board positions will be open for the 2018/2019 year:

- 1st President
- 2nd President
- Membership Officer
- Hospitality Volunteer
- Activities Group Coordinator

Please consider serving your community and this great organization!

Willow Creek Real Estate News

Presented by Brent Hilvitz of Redesigned Realty



What happened to all the Open Houses?

In the early 2000's my wife and I had just moved to Willow Creek and loved going to open houses on the weekends. We weren't looking to buy a home, we were just curious to see what other homes looked like.

Fast forward to 2018, and the market is so hot homes go under contract before sellers can even have an open house. It's great for the sellers, but terrible for nosey neighbors like me. I could go to Zillow to look up pictures of the house, but who has the time for that? Besides, I don't want to have some random Realtor knocking on my door because I went to their site.

What I really want is an email once a month with pictures and descriptions of all the homes for sale that month. No spam, Nobody knocking on my door, just the good stuff!

That's why I started **WillowCreekMLS.com**. You can go to the site, put in your name and email, and you will get a monthly email with pictures and details of all the homes for sale that month. I'll never send you spam or even ask for your address. (You can even put in a fake name if you want)

It's true, I get monthly flyers of homes for sale in the mail or Xeroxed copies stuck to my door. And that's great, but it's just a bunch of addresses and prices. What I really want are pictures and details, not just numbers.

Give it a try, It's free and you can cancel anytime.

I have ten years experience selling homes in Willow Creek. Give me a call for help with any of your real estate needs. 720-432-5545 or at Brent@RedesignedRealty.com

Willow Creek 3 Teen Services

To add or update your listing, please have your parents contact Kerri at kerri@porchlink.com. Please include name, age, phone number, and services provided, and birthday for tracking purposes. Please specify "Willow Creek 3".

The Teen Services listing is offered and maintained by the Homeowners Association, and is not a service of Porchlink Media, LLC. Any misuse of the listing should be reported immediately to the Homeowners Association.



Please see the Willow Creek 3 Teen Services in the printed newsletter.

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WILLOWCREEK3.COM

News, information and updates from the Willow Creek 3 Board of Directors • Important contacts and links • Community events & meetings Detailed Architectural Control information • Pool & tennis court info Dolphins Swim Team • Tennis Club • Women's Club • Photos • More

Business Services Advertising

Rates & Information:

How do I place a Business Services ad? To place a business service ad, please email the text for your ad to kerri@porchlink.com by the 20th of the preceding month in which you would like your ad to appear. Please indicate in which communities you would like your ad to run.

How do I pay for a Business Services ad? Once your business service ad has been received, you will receive an emailed invoice. You may log in and pay via the link in the invoice, call Kerri Watts at 720-295-2649 with your payment info, or mail a check to Porchlink Media, 6525 Gunpark Drive #370-133, Boulder, CO 80301. Payments are due on the 20th of the preceding month.

How are Business Services ads different than display ads? Business service ads are just text ads, which are usually placed within the last few pages of the newsletter. They do not contain any images or logos.

Rates per month: Per 25 words, \$.50 per additional word.

PARKER	
Stonegate	\$35
Stroh Ranch	\$25
Pradera	\$25
Bradbury	\$25
All of Parker \$100	
CASTLE ROCK	
Sapphire Pt	\$15
Founders	\$10
CENTENNIAL	
Willow Creek	\$35
Foxridge	\$25
Hunters Hill	\$10
Chapparral	\$25
Broadway Estates	\$20
Cherrywood Village	\$15
AURORA	
Blackstone	\$25
Saddle Rock East&South	\$25
Saddle Rock North	\$20
Tallyn's Reach	\$25
Murphy Creek	\$20
The Farm	\$10
Southshore	\$25
Beacon Point	\$15
All of Aurora \$140	
LONE TREE	
Acres Green	\$25



Garden Tips for March

MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION...

By: Jacki Hein, Douglas County Colorado Master Gardener

And so the rhyme goes, March winds bring April showers, April showers bring May flowers... It's that time of year, when the winds blow and one day will feel like early summer, and the next will be a return to winter. And so it can continue well into May, and sometimes beyond that.

Colorado isn't an easy place to garden, although we have some of the most insanely dedicated gardeners I've seen anywhere. We dig and plant, amend the soil, and water, then water, then water more and more and more! Most of us come here from other parts of the country where gardening was as simple as just putting something in the ground. The soil was good, rain fell from the skies, and the life of a gardener went along as easily as pruning off dead flowers and pulling a weed or two.

We work for the gardens we have here. If you haven't heard the term "xeriscape," search it out. It's the best principles in gardening for this part of the country. It deals with amending soil, choosing the correct plants, grouping those plants according to water needs, applying mulch on top of the soil, and then watering correctly. This is all important stuff to be aware of for gardening in Colorado.

We're all getting anxious now to start looking at plants and doing things outside. Those beautifully warm 60+ degree days mess with our minds and will have us out digging in the dirt. It's way too early to plant anything, but you can always use the time to work some compost or sphagnum peat into your planting areas. At least we can start getting things ready.

Use this time, too, to plan. Pick up a gardening magazine or catalog and look for ideas. Have things in mind so you don't get taken in by the first flowering plants you see in the garden center. Impulse buying hits us all, though, and sometimes you find some really neat stuff you didn't think you were looking for.

So while the weather is doing its rollercoaster thing, plant some seeds inside, do some research and get ready for spring. The CSU Extension Office in Douglas County, located on the Fairgrounds in Castle Rock, is a wealth of information on what and how to make things grow here. You can stop in anytime to get FREE info, or to talk to a Master Gardener about some problem or issue in your own gardens, or just to commiserate about making things grow. We're all in this together so let's make it work! Our help desk will open at the end of March and run through the end of September. Please stop by!

Jacki Hein is a 30-year Douglas County Master Gardener and the owner of GardenScapes, a business where she helps plan, plant and maintain gardens in the Denver area.



Attention Young Aviators!

The 2018 Aviation Summer Camp
at Centennial Airport is here!

Limitless Expeditions, partnering with Aspen Flying Club, is pleased to announce that our Aviation Expedition camp for students 9 – 12 years of age is back!

If you have a young aviation enthusiast and are looking for an educational opportunity that offers students an introductory experience with real world aviation and piloting concepts, please visit our website for more information and registration details:

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1

NO NEED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE...

FIND THE HELP YOU NEED!

2

SUPPORT THOSE WHO

SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Luck of the Irish

One of the most frequently visited sites in Ireland is the Blarney Stone. Thousands of tourists a year visit Blarney Castle for a chance to get the "Gift of the Gab" by kissing the Blarney Stone. Although the exact origin of this custom is unknown, the history of the castle itself is well documented.

Blarney Castle was built in 1446 with walls 18 feet thick in places. The stone itself is situated high up in the battlements of the castle, and is reached by following one of several long, stone spiral staircases up to the top. The stone is believed to be half of the Stone of Scone, which originally be-longed to Scotland, and over which Scottish kings were crowned. Cormac MacCarthy obtained the stone in 1314 from Robert the Bruce, and eventually it was placed in Blarney Castle. Legend has it that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. The king kissed the stone and was given the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly, the "Gift of the Gab."

More likely though, the basis for the legend of the Blarney Stone comes from the dealings of Queen Elizabeth I with Ireland's chiefs. Cormac MacCarthy was a diplomatic negotiator, with an ability to delay the queen's requests. Elizabeth proclaimed that MacCarthy was giving her "a lot of Blarney," and thus the legend was born.

Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence. But it comes at a price—the stone is in a difficult to reach place. In order to reach the stone, the kisser must lie on his back and bend backward and downward, holding iron bars for support. But those willing to go to these lengths are truly able to say they have the "luck of the Irish."

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Home Care Assistance Celebrates Nutrition Month!

4 healthy foods to enjoy with
your loved one!

Salmon is rich in omega-3 fatty acids can help relieve inflammatory pain.

Quinoa is high in protein, fiber and nutrients and is gluten free.

Kale is nutrient and fiber rich, but also a great source of calcium and protein.

Apple Cider Vinegar promotes heart health and digestion and manages blood sugar levels.

Home Care Assistance caregivers are trained to cook nutritious meals for your loved one!



Miso-Glazed Salmon or Arctic Char

Can be served with steamed broccoli or spinach and brown rice.

This dish is packed with flavor, nutrients and easy to pull together.

1 wild salmon or arctic char fillet (6 oz.) 1 tsp. fresh grated ginger
2 Tbsp. white or yellow miso 1/2 tsp. toasted sesame oil
1 tsp. rice vinegar

Directions

1. Preheat broiler and place salmon on a lined baking sheet.
2. In a small bowl, combine miso, vinegar, ginger, and sesame oil. Spread over the salmon.

Serves 1.



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TLC Meals on Wheels promotes dignity, well being, and independence for those whose age or disability makes it difficult for them to provide their own balanced nutrition. Monday through Friday our volunteers deliver nutritious, freshly made hot meals at lunch, helping those in need stay in the security and comfort of their own home. For many of our clients, our volunteer delivery drivers are the only personal contact they have on a daily basis. In short, we address both hunger for food and hunger for personal contact.

And it's not just our clients who benefit. Volunteers find the relationships they develop with our clients and the difference they make in the lives of those they serve very fulfilling. Our volunteers, many of whom have been with our program for years, serve in a variety of roles, from delivering meals, to working in the kitchen and helping out in the office.

Would you or someone you know benefit from our weekday meal service? Or would you like to volunteer and experience firsthand the joy a meal and a smile can bring? If so, please contact TLC Meals on Wheels at 303-798-7642 or visit our website at www.TLCMealsOnWheels.org.

**Please contact
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Crazy fast fiber Internet made for Willow Creek





Pre-order deadline is April 30, 2018

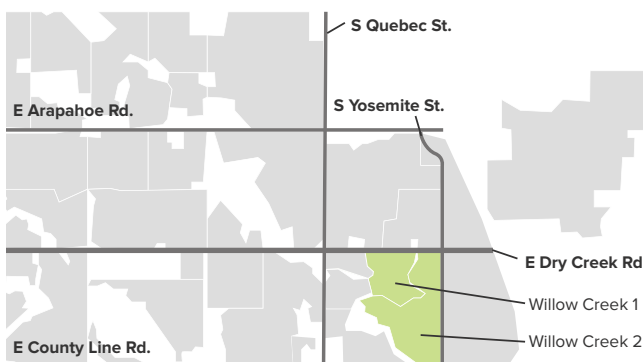


We believe that a great town deserves great Internet. We're committed to building the Centennial fiber network and bringing crazy fast fiber Internet — the fastest Internet around — to you.

What is Gigabit fiber?



This is next generation Internet that has huge benefits not just for homes but for businesses too. We're talking symmetrical gigabit Internet. 1000 Mbps download and 1000 Mbps upload. It's an Internet connection that doesn't slow down no matter how many people are in the house, in the city, or online.

-  surf the web with no load time
-  get unlimited monthly data usage
-  no contracts - you can leave any time
-  no hidden fees - pay for what you see



Construction has started in Willow Creek

This is just the beginning of our network build here in Centennial and our goal is to wire the entire city with blazing-fast, economy-driving, job-creating fiber. We'll be announcing future neighborhoods and the next phases of our build in early 2018.

-  Phase 1 - Willow Creek 1 and 2
-  Phase 2 and beyond (to be announced)

Pre-order for free installation

A \$9 pre-order will give you a \$250 discount on start up costs for gigabit fiber Internet as well as put you at the front of the line when we start lighting up homes in your neighborhood. Pre-order deadline is **April 30, 2018**.

Pre-order at ting.com/centennial

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