

TO: Mayor Rogin and Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Victoria Simonsen, Town Administrator
DATE: December 29, 2022
ITEM: Administrator's Report

_____ ORDINANCE
_____ MOTION / RESOLUTION
 X INFORMATION

400-402 Main St. Structure Fire: On Thursday morning, December 15th, a fire broke out in the 400 block of historic, downtown Main Street in Lyons. The building impacted is two stories of approximately 5,000 square feet and had multiple small businesses and commercial tenants. The small, local businesses directly impacted include Rabbit Brush Gallery, Bellwether, Lovely by Nature, Farmers Insurance, Scope Accounting, and 3C Gallery.

As of this writing, the cause of the fire is still under investigation. Emergency responders included Lyons Fire, Pinewood Spring Fire, Lefthand Fire, Longmont Fire, and Hygiene Fire Departments. One person was transported to the hospital and later released. The building sustained severe damage.

Efforts to support and help the small businesses affected are ongoing. The Lyons Emergency Assistance Fund has created a fund to help those business owners impacted. The website to donate is <https://leaflyons.org/main-street-fire/>

Lyons Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Lyons are coordinating efforts to assess needs, identify potential commercial space, offer educational sessions on insurance, and potentially offer free inspections to businesses.

The current owner of the building, 4455 West Colfax, LLC (Paul Tamburello) is waiting on the report from the Fire Protection District and multiple consultants, as well as their insurance company before moving forward. No one is allowed inside the building until a structural engineer has inspected it. In the meantime, the area has been fenced for the public's safety.

Ice Rink is Open: Following the extreme temperatures, the ice rink at LaVern M. Johnson Park opened on December 23rd. The ice conditions are weather-dependent. We ask that skaters respect the conditions and always use caution when skating. The rink hours are 9 am to 10 pm daily. Users may rent skates from the concession stand or use their own. Skating is free, however, vehicle parking fees are still enforced. Residents have parking passes available to them. See link for more details: <https://www.townoflyons.com/591/Ice-Skating-at-LaVern-M-Johnson-Park>

Extreme Cold Conditions: December 21-23rd brought extreme weather conditions to Lyons, mainly in the form of life-threatening wind chills and cold temperatures. The parks and public works personnel did a tremendous job preparing for the extreme conditions and no problems were noted in public facilities. An unexpected heavy snow event also occurred on December 29th. No power outages were noted and no reports of downed trees on public property.

Board of Adjustments Hearing Regarding 641 3rd Ave: The Board of Adjustments held a hearing on December 20, 2022, to hear a request for a variance to setbacks to the minimum lot area at 641 3rd Avenue. The request was denied unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Railroad Avenue Re-opened: Railroad Ave, between 2nd Ave to 3rd Ave has been closed due to a construction project for a Longmont Water pump station. In conjunction with the upcoming Broadway Avenue project and multi-modal improvements, the Board of Trustees approved changing the block to a **one-way only**, westbound direction for this one block of Railroad Avenue. The public works staff has completed installing the required signage. There will be flags warning drivers of this new vehicle pattern. The remaining improvements to this block will be completed as part of the Broadway Avenue project in the spring of 2023. A new driveway cut has been made off 3rd Avenue to access the public parking in the area.

Mayor Rogin and staff met with neighbors who had expressed concerns about the design selected for this section of roadway. We are anticipating that there will request for a traffic study of Evans Street a few months after the Broadway Avenue project is completed and compare that study to the one conducted previously to see if traffic has increased significantly or beyond the intent of a neighborhood street. If there are new concerns, we will look at recommendations from the study (i.e., speed limits on Railroad Avenue).

Old Man Winter Bike Rally and Run: The Annual Old Man Winter Rally is scheduled for Sunday, February 5th. <https://www.oldmanwinterrally.com/> This year the event start and finish will be moved to Bohn Park. They plan to have a 5K and 10K run in addition to a 50K and 100K ride. This year, they are requesting that 2nd Avenue be closed from Park Street up to the entrance to the parking lot/recycling center. See below for details. Boulder County Sheriff concurs and will be working the event.

The Old Man Winter Rally has taken place in Lyons for the past seven years. The races and rally include a 5k and 10k run in Lyons as well as a 50K and 100K bike ride/race through Boulder County. The organization works with Town Staff, Boulder County Permitting staff, Boulder County Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol, and CDOT. The two running events utilize town trails and roadways. The bike events use local roads, county roads, and state highways.

Originally, when the event first began, it was based in Sandstone Park and Oskar Blues was the premier sponsor. As the event grew, they requested to change the host venue to LaVern Johnson Park. It has been held there for the past four years (except 2021 was virtual, due to COVID). Sherriff's deputies would close Railroad Ave for two blocks for the event. For 2023, the organizers have asked to change to Bohn Park, due to its sunnier location and more parking. The special use permit at the park for the event has been approved. The organization pays an impact/permit fee to the town based on the number of participants.

New for 2023, the organizers have asked to close 2nd Ave for approximately one block (from Park St to the Bohn Park entrance and the Recycling Center entrance). Both park and recycling entrances would be open to the public, but access would only be from the south side of 2nd Ave (drivers, would need to detour to McConnell and 2nd Ave.) Staff met with Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) regarding the temporary road closure for the event on Sunday, February 5th, from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. BCSO will require a deputy at the closure (paid for by the organization) and also the TYPE 3 Road Closure Barricades at both ends of the closure (paid for by the organization).

Last August, there was a similar style road closure at 2nd Ave for the Venus de Miles event. The time frame was slightly shorter, and there were no complaints received. Staff will message the closure in e-blasts and the organizers will include the information in a mailing about the event to neighbors. Staff wanted to update the BOT of the temporary road closure for the event, which is required per the special event permit process.

Wastewater Rates: Wastewater rates are scheduled to increase in 2023. Wastewater (sewer) quantity use and monthly charges for residential customers are billed using their winter Average Water Consumption (AWC). AWC is based on average water use during the December, January, and February utility billing months and provides a basis for calculating your wastewater charges during the rest of the year.

The Town averages the use shown on these three months of billings to estimate the amount of average monthly water used inside each home which then enters the sanitary sewer system, as wastewater. This winter usage determines the monthly wastewater usage for each month of the year and is calculated annually, every March.

The new base rate for residential consumers with metered Town-provided water service will increase to \$24.45 per month (from \$22.65) for wastewater along with the average winter consumption increasing to \$14.60 (from \$13.50) per 1,000 gallons. Using AWC, the typical residential household in Lyons is billed for 3,000 gallons of wastewater monthly.

St. Vrain Trail Update: Mayor Rogin hosted Commissioner Levy in Lyons last week and toured and discussed the St. Vrain Trail project, its constraints, and the funding gap to complete the final mile of the regional connector. Staff will be meeting with representatives of Boulder County and Longmont in January to brainstorm funding opportunities.

Prescribed Burn Window for Hall Ranch Begins Tuesday, Jan. 3

Hall Ranch will only be closed during active ignition days.

Boulder County, Colo. - Boulder County Parks & Open Space and the Sheriff's Office Fire Management Program have announced burn-window dates to conduct prescribed burn operations this winter and spring, weather permitting. Prescribed fires reduce woody debris on forest floors. Removing these hazardous fuels decreases the risk of extreme wildland fires.

Seeing smoke can be triggering for many residents as we approach the one-year anniversary of the Marshall Fire. When prescribed burn days are planned, staff will send email and text notifications and post on the Boulder County Parks & Open Space Facebook and Twitter pages. For additional information and to sign up for email and text notifications, please visit boco.org/PrescribedBurns.

To talk to a forester, contact Boulder County Parks & Open Space Forestry and Fire Group at BCforestry@bouldercounty.org.

This is part of the Nelson Loop Prescribed Burn Project, a five-year plan to treat 853 acres with a goal of burning up to 350 acres per year. Burn operations are usually scheduled for one to three consecutive days.

- Nelson Loop Prescribed Burn Project at [Hall Ranch](#)
 - Burn window Jan. 3 - April 15
 - Located west of Town of Lyons
 - [Burn area map](#)

Burn operations and corresponding park closures will be announced at least 24 hours prior to ignition. Park closures during the burn days are necessary to ensure public safety during burning. If conditions are not favorable for operations the parks will be open.

Fire personnel will also stop burning if weather conditions do not allow for a safe operation or if the situation becomes unsafe for any reason. As with all prescribed burns, conditions must meet certain criteria for the burn to take place. Weather considerations include wind, temperature, relative humidity, and air quality. To determine if conditions are suitable for ignitions, fire managers assess fuel moisture levels and continuously monitor current and projected weather forecasts.

Smoke and flames may be visible for days to weeks following a prescribed burn. There may be heavy smoke in the air. Please do not call 911 since a prescribed burn is not an emergency. The areas will be monitored to ensure fires are completely out.

Smoke from prescribed fires may affect health. The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment [Wood Smoke and Health](#) website and the Boulder County Public Health [Wildfire Air Quality & Health](#) website provides tips on how to protect health from smoke.

Scrap Metal and Block Styrofoam: On Thursday, January 5th, Lyons Volunteers will be picking up scrap metal and block Styrofoam, both hard to recycle materials and bring them to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) in Boulder. In order to get on their pick up list, [please fill out this short form](#) before the end of day Wednesday.

Public Art Show and Display New Show Wednesday, January 11

The LAHC Tandem Art Show and Reception will be held Wednesday, January 11 from 5:30-7 pm at the Library & Town Hall to view fresh art. Local musician, David Tiller (& friends) will provide music. CoCo Gordon will be exhibiting her artwork for a special show at the Library. Other artists are encouraged to bring their creative pieces to Town Hall, on Friday, January 6, from 5 -7 pm, to display for the opening show on Wednesday, January 11