

COLUMBINE VALLEY VOICE

SPRING 2025



2 Middlefield Road
Columbine Valley, CO 80123

Phone: 303-795-1434

Fax: 303-795-7325

Dispatch: 303-795-4711



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FROM THE MAYOR

One of the most surprising things I've realized as a Trustee and Mayor is the size of the annual budget of our "little town." This year the budget is projected to be more than \$3,000,000. The budget is available on the Town website (Government > Budgets & Finances), but I thought it would be useful to highlight the major revenue sources and expenses, and to explain how the Board of Trustees is addressing some of those items.

We are very fortunate to have excellent staff and contractors to handle our financial matters. Our Town Administrator, J.D. McCrumb, has overall responsibility for managing the implementation of our budget. He is supported by several staff members. In addition, the Town has retained CRS of Colorado, specialists in public entity finances, to review our transactions and prepare documents.

REVENUE SOURCES

Property Taxes. Property taxes are assessed on residential and commercial property. The amount of tax is determined by the assessed value of the property multiplied by the mill levy determined by the Town. In 2024, residents expressed a great deal of concern regarding substantial increases in property taxes. *While the State Legislature attempted to address this problem, they were unable to come to a solution.*

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MAYOR & BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bruce Menk, Mayor
(Term Expires April 2026)

Bill Dotson, Mayor Pro Tem
Trustee (Public Safety)
(Term Expires April 2026)

Betsy McCain
Trustee (Community Affairs)
(Term Expires April 2028)

Mike Giesen
Trustee (Finance)
(Term Expires April 2028)

Ed Icenogle
Trustee (Public Works)
(Term Expires April 2026)

Dave Huelskamp
Trustee (Planning)
(Term Expires April 2028)

Al Timothy
Trustee (Building)
(Term Expires April 2026)

Mail Correspondence To:
2 Middlefield Road
Columbine Valley, CO 80123

Or Email To:
BoardofTrustees@columbinevalley.org

MAYOR (continued)

Our Board of Trustees determined they could help address the problem by enacting a temporary decrease in our mill levy. This decrease resulted in a reduction totaling \$179,494.

The Board has extended the temporary reduction for the 2025 budget.

Sales & Use Tax. The Town collects sales taxes on retail sales within the Town boundaries, including Columbine Country Club and the pro shop, CenturyLink, and AT&T. The Town also collects sales tax on residents' automobile purchases and on materials purchased for new and remodel home construction. *If you are purchasing these items, please include our nine-digit ZIP code of 80123-6622 on any invoices. This helps us collect all the applicable tax rather than sharing those taxes with the City of Littleton.*

Permit Fees & Fines. Permit and plan review fees are generated through remodels and new construction. Tickets issued by the Police Department in Columbine Valley and Bow Mar generally result in fines collected.

Bow Mar Public Safety. This past year, Columbine Valley has renewed its intergovernmental agreement with Bow Mar for a 10-year term, and we continue to assume responsibility for its public safety and municipal court.

Other Revenue. Columbine Valley receives revenue from various other sources, including State Highway Users Tax, County Highway Mill Tax, Cigarette Tax Apportionment, Motor Vehicle Registration Fees, Specific Ownership Tax, utility fran-

chise fees, cable TV fees, the Bow Mar Building Department IGA, interest on investments, and grant income.

TOWN EXPENSES

Public Safety. Public safety costs include both Police Department expenses and the expense of operating municipal court.

Administration. Administrative costs include Town office salaries and benefits, legal, human resources, accounting, audit, insurance, building inspection costs, Town Hall maintenance and utilities, and community functions.

Planning & Engineering. The costs included in this category are all associated with mapping, zoning, and property development within the Town. Incremental costs associated with requests from developers to review and approve new projects within the Town are generally recovered from the developers.

Public Works. Town property maintenance costs include street and gutter maintenance and repair, street lighting, road striping, park maintenance, maintenance of Town equipment, and trash and recycling pickup. The Town handles snow removal services internally, relying on our full-time Public Works manager and part-time help as necessary.

I hope this summary of our financial activities is helpful to you, as a resident, in understanding what it costs to operate our "little town."

—Bruce A. Menk, Mayor

Tips from the Town

As we head into nicer weather, spring cleaning, and home improvement projects, keep the following do's & don'ts in mind.

GARAGE SALES. Do check with your HOA to see if it hosts a community garage sale you can join. Don't hold an individual garage sale or yard sale as it's prohibited by the Town's municipal code.

Details: ColumbineValley.org > Community > Garage, Yard & Estate Sales.

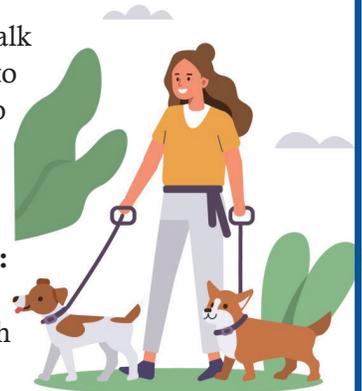
ESTATE SALES. Do hold an estate sale for one day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., upon permanently vacating the home. Don't hold an estate sale without approval from the HOA and a permit from the Town.

Details: ColumbineValley.org > Community > Garage, Yard & Estate Sales.

BUILDING PERMITS. Do remember to get HOA approval for exterior changes and landscaping. Don't proceed with an HOA-approved project until contractors and subcontractors are licensed by the Town (as needed). Note that contractors are not allowed to post signs identifying their business. **Details:** ColumbineValley.org > Building > Building Permits.

DUMPSTERS. Do place dumpsters on private property for up to 30 days. Don't forget to request a free permit from the Town's Building Department, and don't place the dumpster on the street. **Details:** ColumbineValley.org > Community > Dumpsters, Etc.

DOG WALKING. Do walk your dog on a leash, stick to public areas, and be sure to pick up any waste. Don't allow your dog to run free, and don't walk your dog on the golf course. **Details:** ColumbineValley.org > Community > Dogs: Leash Law, Licensing, Limit.



RECYCLING. Do place empty, clean, and dry plastics (marked with 1, 2, or 5), metal cans, cardboard, newspapers, magazines, and paper food containers in the Republic Services recycling bin. Don't recycle plastic bags, food wrappers, straws, Styrofoam, scrap metal, or tissue. Note that Republic Services does not accept glass. **Details:** RecyclingSimplified.com.

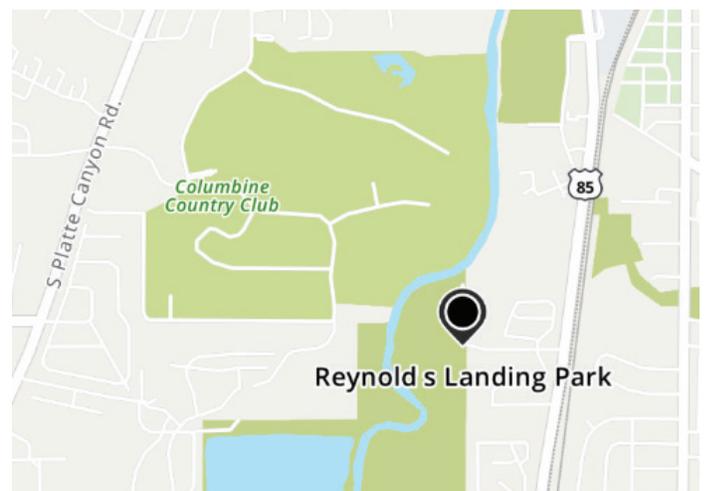
DISTRACTED DRIVING. Do use a hands-free device while driving a vehicle to avoid penalties and keep our roads safe. Don't touch your phone while driving any vehicle—including a golf cart—even while stopped at traffic signals. **Details:** cdot.gov.HandsFreeCO.



POLICE. Do call 911 for emergencies or dispatch at 303-795-4711 for non-emergencies. Don't forget that Town Hall administrative staff are not trained to handle police issues. They will direct you to dispatch at 303-795-4711. **Details:** ColumbineValley.org > Police.

Reynolds Landing Project in the Works

The redevelopment project at Reynolds Landing Park along the South Platte River has started. The collaborative project—involving the City of Littleton, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, Arapahoe County, Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Conservation Board, and Mile High Flood District—is designed to enhance the natural beauty and recreational opportunities at the park. Look for changes to access to the Mary Carter Greenway and the South Platte River in that area as the project proceeds. For details on the plans and schedule, visit GamePlan.ssprd.org.



Save the Dates!

Saturday, April 12

**Shred
Event!**

Saturday,
April 26

**Prescription
Drug
Take-
Back
Event**

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

**THE LONG RUN
(THE EAGLES
TRIBUTE BAND)
FREE SUMMER
CONCERT**



Friday, July 4

**4th of
July
Parade
&
Festival**

Thursday, July 10

**Margarita Brothers
(Jimmy Buffett
Tribute Band)
Free Summer Concert**

Thursday, Aug. 7

**The Country
Music Project
Free Summer
Concert**



TOWN CALENDAR

March 18	Board of Trustees Meeting
April 12	Spring Shred Event
April 15	Board of Trustees Meeting
April 26	Prescription Drug Take-Back Day
May 20	Board of Trustees Meeting
May 26	Memorial Day, Town Hall Closed
Monthly	Court Dates: Visit ColumbineValley.org > Court > Municipal Court

TOWN STAFF

J.D. McCrumb Town Administrator	Lee Schiller Town Attorney
Bret Cottrell Chief of Police	Diane Rodriguez Finance Director
Bonnie Zapata-Diaz Building Dept. Coordinator	Brent Kaslon Town Planner
Hobbes Hayden Public Works Manager	Jim Thelen Chief Building Inspector
Dinae Dreesen Public Works Associate	Troy Carmann Town Engineer
Kelly Anton Communications	Joanna Czarnecka Sr. Construction Manager