Youth Commission Award Winners

SPIRIT OF AND PRIDE OF PARKER

The Parker Youth Commission is pleased to introduce the first-ever youth award winners.

Emma Adams and Megan Bright received the Spirit of Parker Award and a $1,000 scholarship. In their submissions, they illustrated how they have made a positive, meaningful and beneficial impact on the Town of Parker.

The Pride of Parker Award recipients are Faye Reynolds, Isabella Benitez, Catalina Benitez and Drisha Mishra. Each of these winners submitted a visual art piece expressing what Parker means to them. They received a $200 gift card, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

All pieces are currently on exhibit at the PACE Center Art Gallery through Aug. 16. Congratulations to these outstanding youth in our community who truly demonstrate what it means to be a member of our Town!

APPLY TO BE A YOUTH COMMISSIONER

Good news, it’s not too late to apply to be a Youth Commissioner!

Parker’s Youth Commission provides students with a formal advisory role where they can learn more about local government, participate in the process, and represent and articulate the needs of our community’s young citizens.

This commission consists of nine members who serve two-year terms. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 15 for one open position. Preference will be given to Parker residents, although any Douglas County students in grades 9 through 11 (in the fall) with strong ties to Parker will also be considered for membership.

For more information about the Parker Youth Commission, and to learn more about how to submit an application, visit ParkerOnline.org/YouthCommission.

Parker’s Finance Department has received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for 2022. They have also received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2023 Annual Budget. These awards are the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.
Lawson Named Assistant Town Manager — Operations

The Town of Parker has announced the hiring of Michael Lawson as Assistant Town Manager — Operations. Lawson, who previously served as City Manager for the City of Woodland Park, will begin his role in Parker in August.

"I’m excited to welcome Michael to Parker," said Town Manager Michelle Kivela. "Michael brings a wealth of local government administrative experience from a variety of former roles to our team. In addition to successfully guiding the City of Woodland Park's organization for the past two years, his previous work for the City of Aurora provides him with a great deal of familiarity with the Denver South Metro region."

As Assistant Town Manager — Operations, Lawson will work in partnership with the Town Manager to provide key leadership, strategic direction and oversight of organizational operations. He will serve as a liaison and partner on Town-wide issues and oversee the Greater Parker Foundation, as well as the Cultural and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Departments.

"It is an immense privilege to join the Town of Parker team," Lawson said. "My family and I are truly excited to become part of the community and enjoy all it offers. I look forward to supporting the Town Manager and Council in making Parker an even greater place to live."

Lawson most recently served as Woodland Park’s City Manager since June 2021. Prior to joining Woodland Park, Lawson spent 12 years with the City of Aurora and also has worked for the City of San Diego.
RTD 'ZERO FARE' CONTINUES IN AUGUST

The Town of Parker and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) are excited to partner on Zero Fare for Better Air, a collaborative, statewide initiative designed to reduce ground-level ozone by increasing use of public transit.

During the months of July and August, customers can ride RTD with zero fare. This program is made possible by Colorado Senate Bill 22-180 and in partnership with the Colorado Energy Office.

Riding transit promotes cleaner air. Approximately 85% of the greenhouse gas emissions that come from transportation are due to day-to-day commutes. By leaving the car at home, a person can save up to 20 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions every day. Some of the additional benefits of using transit include cost savings, gas savings, traffic reduction, time savings and stress reduction making a daily commute better for all.

There are many ways to take advantage of Zero Fare for Better Air this summer. Transit can, of course, be used for daily work commute, but RTD also offers services that make connections to entertainment and sports venues, schools, and popular shopping and restaurants districts.

To learn how to hop on board to participate in Zero Fare for Better Air, visit rtd-denver.com/zerofare.com.

THE BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR PARKER

Town of Parker employees enjoy a robust benefits package. An integral part of the organization’s overall compensation package, our benefits include valuable perks, in addition to salary:

• Medical, pharmacy, dental and vision
• Flexible spending and health savings accounts
• Generous retirement plans
• Paid holidays
• Accrued time off
• Employee assistance program
• Gym memberships

• Life and AD&D
• Disability
• Wellness program

To access the Town of Parker Employee Benefits Guides, visit ParkerOnline.org/Benefits. To learn more about the opportunities currently available to join our team, visit ParkerOnline.org/Jobs or scan the QR code pictured here.

REMINDER: TALL GRASS & WEEDS

We are deep into the summer season, and that means grass and weeds are growing!

The Town of Parker would like to remind residents about its municipal ordinance dealing with weeds and tall grass. Any non-native grass or weeds over 12 inches tall must be cut. We request that noxious weeds be pulled or sprayed as mowing them won’t remove the threat of spreading. Violations of the Town’s municipal ordinance regarding weeds and tall grass could result in a fine up to $499 per day that the violation exists.

We also ask that all residents take a moment and look over their front, side and backyards to ensure they are free from tall grass and weeds. If your property has them, please take care of them as quickly as possible and continue to maintain your property throughout the year.

Undeveloped property is permitted to grow native grasses and other acceptable vegetation to naturally occurring heights.

For more information, please contact the Community Services Division of the Parker Police Department at 303.841.9800.
JUST ANNOUNCED

One of country music’s most prominent artists with six No. 1 hits and eight top-five singles, Academy of Country Music Award winner Rodney Atkins will take the PACE Center stage! Atkins, who has sold over 14 million units and earned 12 career Gold, Platinum and Multi-Platinum RIAA certifications, continues to be recognized as one of the most powerful voices in country music today. See him LIVE in concert Saturday, Oct. 7 at PACE!

ART GALLERIES

PAG’s 3rd Biannual Pet Portraits: Animal Friends
• Now–Aug. 19 | The Schoolhouse

Oh, Honey! The World of Encaustic Art
• Now–Sept. 10 | PACE Center

CHECK OUT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Honey Festival
• Aug. 6 | O’Brien Park
Join us for this free, fun-filled community event that raises awareness and appreciation for the honeybee.

Parker Arts Lectures: Creating Bird-Friendly Communities
• Sept. 6 | The Schoolhouse
Speaker: Kate Hogan, Denver Audubon

Member Event: Mindful Watercolor Doodling
• Sept. 7 | PACE Center
Learn to use watercolors to create simple landscapes, abstract doodles and simple floral designs.

Crime and Wine
• Sept. 8 | The Schoolhouse
A one-of-a-kind, thrilling event that combines history, mystery, food, wine and, of course, a real-life crime!

Friday Night Jazz
• Sept. 15 | The Schoolhouse
The CJRO Ensemble and vocalist Marion Powers bring us Songs of Brazil and the Music of the Bronx Horns.

Family Discovery Series: The Gingerbread Man
• Sept. 16 | The Schoolhouse
Children are invited to bring nursery rhymes and fairy tales to life as they act out the adventures of this mischievous little cookie.

The Comedy Zone
• Sept. 16 | The Schoolhouse
Laugh out loud in this fun-packed series, featuring two hilarious comedians for one low ticket price.

Uncharted Music Series: Adam Ezra
• Sept. 21 | The Schoolhouse
Kick off the Uncharted season with this unique up-and-coming artist who fuses folk intimacy and rock energy with soul power and pop charm.

Michael Yo
• Sept. 30 | PACE Center
Two-time Emmy nominee Michael Yo brings his uniquely personal blend of comedy to PACE!

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL CLASSES

Please visit ParkerArts.org/Education for a complete list of Fall classes and to register!
Bitty and Teenie Cheer

Bitty and Teenie Cheer sessions offer a fun and engaging way for kids 2 to 4 to learn coordination, core strength and stability through the sport of cheerleading. Kids will learn all aspects of cheer, including motions, jumps and basic stunting and tumbling technique. This class will foster a love of cheerleading in your child all while helping them develop a better mind body connection.

Summer cheer sessions run Aug. 8 through 29 and are held every Tuesday. Bitty Cheer, for ages 2 to 3, will meet from 9 to 9:50 a.m. and Teenie Cheer, ages 3 to 4, will meet from 10 to 10:50 a.m.

Fall cheer sessions run Sept. 5 through 26 and are held every Tuesday. Bitty Cheer will meet from 9 to 9:45 a.m. and Teenie Cheer will meet from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Cost for each session is $59 for Parker residents and $65 for non-residents.

All cheer sessions are held at Momentum Athletics, 18499 Longs Way. Register for classes online at ParkerRec.com/Gymnastics.
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – DAY SHIFT

Join us Saturday, Aug. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at O’Brien Park for National Night Out—Day Shift!

This event will include many of the tools and specialized vehicles used by the Parker Police Department, including the SWAT team, Bike Patrol, CSI, dispatch and regional Mobile Command Center.

Additionally, the Town of Parker will host special demonstrations from various other departments, and numerous other community partners will also be on hand to share important safety information.

Additional details and times are available on Parker PD’s social media channels and at ParkerPolice.org/NNO.

DON'T BECOME A VICTIM OF THEFT

As you’ve likely heard, Colorado has one of the highest auto theft rates in the country, and Douglas County and Parker are not immune. We want to educate Parker residents about what they can do to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of motor vehicle theft and theft of items within motor vehicles.

We are seeing a disturbing trend in the individuals committing these crimes. They are walking up driveways with guns, ready if someone confronts them. These criminals are armed and dangerous, and you should not approach them. Move to somewhere safe and call 9-1-1 immediately. Try to get a license plate number and good suspect descriptions to help us locate them. We don’t want anyone getting hurt.

You can do two key things to minimize your risk: lock your doors and hide your valuables. Locking your doors is your best defense. Criminals will go from car to car, pulling on door handles. Too often, we’ve seen two cars parked in the driveway, and the thief enters the unlocked vehicle while the locked car is left alone. They aren’t going to work hard to get into your vehicle. If they were hard workers, they would have a job. Locking your doors is also critical in preventing your car from being stolen.

Hide your valuables. Leave your car locked and empty, and you significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this crime of opportunity.

It’s not your fault if someone steals your car or stuff, it’s the criminal’s. But please do what you can to reduce your chances of being a victim. Most importantly, don’t approach these guys. They maybe armed and dangerous.

TEEN ACADEMY PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Parker-area teens joined members of the Parker Police Department for a behind-the-scenes look into the agency.

Participants worked through a mock crime scene, watched K-9 Rico at work, stepped inside the Douglas County regional SWAT team’s Bearcat and even got to take a spin on the driving track in a police car. It was a great week, and we’re so thankful for all the teens that joined us.
Thank you EVENT SPONSORS!

This past summer, the Town hosted its Annual Bike to Work Day Breakfast Station and Independence Day fireworks display. These events would not have been possible without our Town sponsors.

Many thanks to our Bike to Work Day Sponsors: Presenting Sponsor Kaiser Permanente, Breakfast Sponsors Rocky Vista University and Bagel Stop Café and Station Sponsors Mike’s Bikes, Natural Grocers and Slim Chickens.

A special thanks also to our Hometown Sponsors: Champion Bank, CORE Electric, Downtown Parker Colorado (DBA), Kaiser Permanente, Parker Pediatrics and Adolescents, Parker Water and Sanitation District, Rocky Mountain Real Estate Advisors and Rocky Vista University. The Town and our community appreciates your help in bringing these events to life for our community!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORNER
Planning and Building a Sustainable Parker!

Did You Know?!

• A total of 2,262 Building Permits were issued in the first half of 2023, compared to 2,200 in 2022.

• 342 single family permits were issued in the first half of 2023, compared to 513 in 2022.

• 25,193 inspections were completed by the Building Department in the first half of 2023, compared to 23,773 in 2022.

Planning Division Quick Reference

• **Signs** - All permanent nonresidential signage requires a sign permit. All temporary signs require ‘sign registration.’ No sign permit is required with the registry and there is no registration fee. For more information on the Town’s sign code, visit ParkerOnline.org/SignPermits.

• **Long Range Projects** - Comprehensive Planning staff develops and implements the Town’s Master Plan and other long-term plans and programs that reflect the community’s vision and that guide the future of Parker. To view the Town’s current master plans and guiding documents, please visit ParkerOnline.org/MasterPlans.

• Curious about that development project? You can learn about development projects under review or under construction within Parker on the Development Tour Map at ParkerOnline.org/Development.

• Planning and Building staff are happy to answer your questions anytime. Feel free to contact us Monday through Friday at 303.841.2332 (Planning) and 303.841.1970 (Building)!

• **Plug In!** - Visit the Town’s Let’s Talk Parker page to engage in any of the current long range projects listed. We’d love your input! For more information, visit LetsTalkParker.org.

• **Mobile Businesses** - Permits are required and allow mobile businesses to operate year-round with renewals every two years. Please visit ParkerOnline.org/MobileBusinesses for more information on mobile business requirements.

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Town Council
Jeff Toborg, Mayor
Anne Barrington  John Diak
Laura Hefta      Todd Hendreks
Joshua Rivero   Brandi Wilks

Town Administrator’s Office
Michelle Kivela, Town Manager

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PARKER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Town Council Meetings
• Aug. 7 and 21; 7 p.m.
Planning Commission Meetings
• Aug. 10 and 24; 7 p.m.
Special Licensing Authority Meeting
• Aug. 17; 6:30 p.m.
For more information on how to view these meetings and participate and/or provide public comment, visit ParkerOnline.org/Calendar or call 303.841.0353. Live video of Town Council and Planning Commission public meetings can be viewed at YouTube.com/TownOfParkerCO.

Registration Opens for Fall/Winter Recreation Activities
• Aug. 1; 10 a.m.
Visit ParkerRec.com or call 303.841.4500.

Teen Defensive Driving and Skid Control
• Aug. 6; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
• Ponderosa High School
Visit AltitudeDSF.com for information or to register.

Homeowner Building Class
• Aug. 10; 5:30 p.m.
• Parker Town Hall
Visit ParkerOnline.org/Homeowners or call 303.841.1970 for more information.

H2O Glow Swim
• Aug. 11; 8 to 9:30 p.m.
• H2O’Brien Pool
Visit ParkerRec.com/AquaticsEvents or call 303.805.3282.

Group Swim Lesson Registration
• Aug. 15; 10 a.m.
Visit ParkerRec.com/SwimLessons or call 303.805.3282.

Wine Walk
• Aug. 25; 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
• Downtown Parker
Visit ParkerChamber.com or call 303.841.4268 for more information.

Dog Days of Summer Charity Festival
• Aug. 26; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Salisbury Equestrian Park
Visit TheGoodDogAcademy.com/DogDaysOfSummer or call 720.541.8282 for more information.

TOWN FACILITY CLOSURES
• July 31 to Aug. 4 - PACE Center
PACE Center will be closed for annual maintenance. Ticket purchases can be made online at ParkerArts.org.

• Aug. 28 to Sept. 4 - Parker Fieldhouse
Fieldhouse will be closed for annual maintenance. Membership will be honored at the Parker Recreation Center. Visit ParkerRec.com for more information.