

Green Valley Ranch Homeowners Association

Quarterly Newsletter ~ Summer 2022

Tips to maximize your Colorado summer

Summer is just around the corner. That means we'll have more opportunities to get outside, soak up some vitamin D and stay active. Follow these tips to stay safe, healthy and make the most of your Colorado summer.

OUTDOOR EXPOSURE

Hundreds of days of sunshine combined with high altitudes make Colorado a great spot to catch a sunburn. Minimize the risks while still enjoying our especially great outdoors with these tips:

- ⇒ Apply sunscreen (SPF 30+) 30 minutes before heading outside. Remember to reapply every couple of hours to avoid burns.
- ⇒ Wear protective clothing like sunglasses, a hat and long-sleeved shirt if you're out in the sun for a while.
- ⇒ Know the signs of dehydration, and always bring and drink plenty of water. If you're taking a pet out on the trails with you, be sure you're carrying enough water for them, too!
- ⇒ Invest in mosquito and other bug repellants if you'll be hiking, biking, camping or spending time in wooded areas.
- ⇒ If you'll be exercising outdoors, try to stay in the shade, or go in the early mornings and evenings when temperatures are lower and the sun isn't directly above you.
- ⇒ If you're planning to adventure on your own, be sure to let someone know where you're going and how long you expect to be gone. Have a plan in place in case someone needs to call for help on your behalf.



(continued on page 2)

Neighborhood Ice Cream Social

June 25th at 7PM

5775 Coachwood Dr cul-de-sac

HOA Board Members

Weldon Shaver, President
wshaver42@gmail.com

Amber Perry, Secretary
kiddoette@gmail.com

Joe Kalis, Vice President
kalis.joseph@gmail.com

Brad Perry, At-Large
kayvon@yahoo.com

Jeff Lawrence, Treasurer
bond007taz@gmail.com

Jay Mullenix, At-Large
jay.mullenix@gmail.com

Covenants Committee
[VACANT]

Social Committee
Amber Perry

Newsletter/Communications
Jay Mullenix

Neighborhood Watch
Jeff Lawrence

Questions? Email us at greenvalleyranchhoa@gmail.com

Tips to maximize your Colorado summer *(continued)*

BIKING

With plenty of designated lanes and trails, Colorado Springs is the perfect place to log some miles on your bike. Whether you're taking a ride around town or mountain biking, keep these tips in mind:

- ⇒ You already know that helmets greatly reduce the risk of brain injury—so wear yours with pride!
- ⇒ If you'll be riding at night, make sure you have front and rear lights that are turned on. You'll also want to invest in reflectors for your bike and clothes.
- ⇒ Know the laws and follow them. Ride with the flow of traffic, stay in your lane and use hand signals. It's illegal to ride with headphones in, so unplug before you pedal.



CAMPING

There are plenty of National and State Parks right in our backyard, and there's no better way to explore it than with a camping trip. Whether you're staying local or heading out of town, here are some recommendations:

- ⇒ Check the rules and regulations of the park you're visiting before heading out. Remember that some campsites may require a reservation or have limited occupancy.
- ⇒ Avoid food poisoning by packing food in tight, waterproof containers and keeping your cooler insulated. Be sure to sanitize your hands often. Separate raw foods from cooked foods, and cook meats to the appropriate temperature (bring along a meat thermometer to be sure).
- ⇒ Only drink potable water. Bring along your own bottled water, invest in a portable water purification system or research other water treatment methods to find one that works for you.
- ⇒ Keep a first-aid kit stocked and ready to go. Review your basic health skills before leaving, like how to identify poison ivy, what to do if you see a wild animal, how to disinfect a cut and how to perform CPR.
- ⇒ Use the buddy system. Have someone looking out in case of an emergency and do the same for them, whether you're hiking, kayaking, swimming or climbing. If you're out alone, let someone know where you're going and have a plan in place in case they need to call for help on your behalf.
- ⇒ As many areas experience drought and dry weather, fire restrictions may be in place to prevent wildfires. Check for fire restrictions in your area and use extreme caution when enjoying the outdoors.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

- *Potluck in the Park — July 16th*
- *Community Garage Sale — August 20th*

IMPORTANT HOMEOWNER CONTACTS

Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD)
(719) 444-7240 for emergencies dial 9-1-1
7850 Goddard St, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU)
(719) 448-4800 or (888) 278-6847
111 S Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Colorado Springs Fire Station 18
(719) 385-5950 for emergencies dial 9-1-1
6830 Hadler View, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

GFL Colorado Springs (waste collection)
(719) 633-8709 | <https://gflenv.com/gfl-colorado-springs/>
650 Santa Fe St, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Colorado Lawn Care Tips

Even though cool-season grasses need most maintenance in the fall, there are a few ways to prepare Kentucky bluegrass and fine fescue lawns for the summer ahead.

⇒ **Rake Deeply** — Just like we look a bit disheveled after a long nap, our turf looks a bit shabby after long winter dormancy. Grab the rake from the tool shed and give your grass a good comb. Raking helps gather up all that winter litter, including acorns, twigs, leaves, branches, and thatch.

◆ **What's thatch?** Thatch is a layer of living and dead organic matter that accumulates between the soil and the grass. A tiny bit of thatch can be good for the lawn because it helps retain moisture in the soil. But thatch over ½-inch thick should be removed because it blocks water, nutrients, and oxygen from reaching the roots. Rake the lawn after winter to help prevent thatch buildup.



⇒ **Adjust Irrigation Timing** — Most lawns need 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week. It's best to water your lawn infrequently for long periods instead of frequently for short periods. Infrequent, deep watering helps promote a strong root system, while frequent shallow watering encourages a weak root system.

⇒ **Apply Herbicide** — Weeds will take advantage of your lawn any time of the year. They compete with your turf for space, nutrients, water, and oxygen, compromising the health of your lawn. Weeds also make an excellent hideout for pests and diseases. Help prevent these invaders from cropping up by applying a pre-emergent herbicide. If the weeds are already growing in your lawn, you'll want to use a post-emergent herbicide instead.



⇒ **Adjust Mower Height** — Make sure your mower is set to the correct height. A 2 ½ to 3-inch mowing height for all Colorado grass species is recommended. Remember not to cut more than ⅓ of your grass's height during a single mow. For example, if the grass is 3 inches tall, don't cut off more than 1 inch. Cutting too much at once can stress your turf.

⇒ **Sharpen Mower Blade** — If you haven't sharpened your lawn blade in a couple years, it's time. Dull blades tear grass, leaving the ends susceptible to drying out

⇒ **Fertilizing** — If you fertilized late last winter, your next application should be around Memorial Day. Other applications can be applied around Labor Day and again in October or November. Don't fertilize

bluegrass and tall fescue with high-nitrogen during the heat of the summer, as it causes excessive growth, more frequent mowing and watering and a greater susceptibility to insects and diseases.

YARD OF THE MONTH

June 2022

Dan and Cherie Becker
5755 Coachwood Trail

