



Friday, February 27, 2026



Photograph by Luke Harper Prince, 1st Place Winner for 2025 Photo Contest

Message From Our City Administrator

Work on Hiawatha continues to move forward, and progress is becoming more visible every day. We encourage everyone to drive by and see how the project is taking shape. Recently, we hosted a community meeting regarding the Hiawatha project, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who took the time to attend, learn more about the work underway, and ask questions. Your engagement and feedback are vital as we move this important project forward.

We recognize that construction along Hiawatha creates disruption, particularly for our local business community. To help support businesses and make it easier for visitors to enjoy all that our downtown has to offer, we are now offering two free hours of parking at the Dillon, with parking available at \$3.00 per hour after that. This is intended to support our business community while continuing to welcome visitors to our vibrant downtown.

Message from our City Administrator, *Continued*

Preparing for Spring

Spring is right around the corner, and as we prepare—hopefully—for a wet season, our Street Crew has been working proactively on storm drain cleanouts as well as the Williams Canyon cleanout. These important preventative measures help protect our city from potential flooding during periods of heavy rain. Thank you to our staff for being proactive and taking the necessary steps to help keep our community safe.

With spring approaching, it also means that bears will soon be coming out of hibernation. Please ensure that trash is not left outside overnight, and let's work together to be a bear-safe community. It is our shared responsibility to properly secure trash and remove attractants. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful location where we can experience wildlife, and it is equally important that we protect them by taking the proper steps to coexist safely.

Community Connect – March 7

On **March 7**, we invite you to join us for a Community Connect event. Stop by, enjoy a cup of coffee and a pastry, and connect with city staff and partners in a relaxed, welcoming setting. This is a great opportunity to:

- Sign up for your 50 hours of free parking and obtain your RPP Pass
- Enroll in the water meter exchange
- Visit with the Fire Department to ask about your property fire assessment
- Learn more about wildfire mitigation plans
- Ask questions about the budget and other city initiatives
- ...and much more.

To make it easy to attend, two hours of free parking will be available for this event. We hope to see you there.

March 6 is Employee Appreciation Day, and I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank all of our employees. Their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving our community do not go unnoticed. Each day, they work behind the scenes and on the front lines to keep our city running and moving forward. We are truly grateful for all that they do.

Thank you for staying engaged and for helping make our community a great place to live, work, and visit.



Community Connect – March 7 at City Hall! Bringing City Services and Residents Together



Want to stay informed about City events, road updates, and important community news?

Need help signing up for your water meter replacement, residential parking credits or permits, or wildfire mitigation assessments? Join us for **Community Connect** on **Saturday, March 7**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue.

This drop-in event includes **two hours of complimentary parking for attendees** and provides a convenient opportunity to receive quick, one-on-one assistance from City staff.

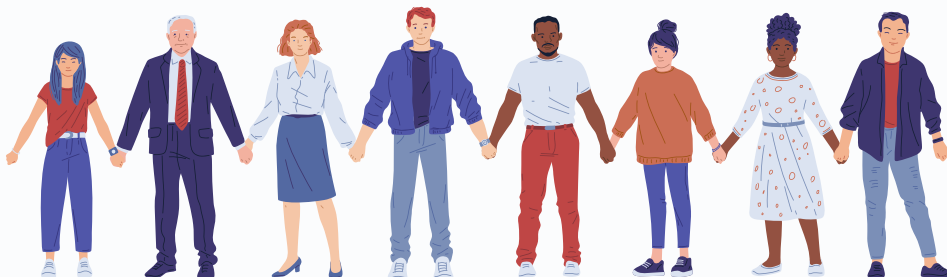
Stop by to ask questions, enjoy light refreshments, connect with neighbors, and make sure you're signed up for the services and updates that matter most to you.

An employee from each city department will be available.

City staff will also be available to assist with:

- Signing up to adopt a park or waterway
- Questions about your water bill
- Questions for the Police Department, with an officer available to speak directly with residents
- Planning and permitting questions
- General questions, feedback, and concerns – we're here to listen and help!

No registration is required—stop by anytime during the event. We look forward to connecting with you and supporting our community at **Community Connect!**



URGENT!



Water Meter Replacement Deadline Has PASSED

If you haven't scheduled your **mandatory** water meter replacement, we need to hear from you immediately. This water meter replacement is **mandatory for all residents** – it is not optional.

Why This Matters

The new meters ensure accurate billing and give you access to a free portal for real-time usage monitoring, leak alerts, and water budgets. But most importantly, they're required by city ordinance.

Action Required Now

You must schedule your appointment right away to avoid:

- Service fees for denied access
- Fines under city ordinance
- Discontinuation of water service to your property



Schedule Today

Call: 719-662-2682 (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm MST)

Online: <https://tinyurl.com/48wwe78z>

Questions?

Contact watermeters@manitouspringsco.gov or call us at 719-581-6275

Meet Our Staff:

Fire Paramedic Jeremy Van der Merwede



A Firefighter Paramedic Driver/Engineer is a Dual-role first responder responsible for both fire suppression and advanced pre-hospital medical care as well as safely driving/operating fire apparatus and managing on-scene equipment.

Core Responsibilities

- **Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Administers Advanced Life Support (ALS). This includes -**
 - Performing invasive procedures like endotracheal intubation, chest decompressions, and cricothyrotomy.
 - Administering medications via IV, intramuscular, or intraosseous routes.
 - Interpreting 12-lead EKGs and performing cardiac defibrillation or pacing.
 - Performs all Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) duties.
- **Firefighting & Suppression: Engages in direct fire combat, including -**
 - Operating hose lines, nozzles, and fire pumps.
 - Performing forcible entry using axes, saws, and halligan tools.
 - Conducting search and rescue in high-heat, low-visibility environments.
- **Apparatus Operation:** Safely drives, positions, and spots fire apparatus at emergency scenes, including fires, medical calls, and hazardous materials incidents. **Pump Operation:** Operates pumping equipment, manages water pressure, and ensures continuous water supply to fire suppression crews.
- **Specialized Rescue:** Performs vehicle extrication using power tools and hazardous materials (Hazmat) mitigation.
- **Maintenance & Readiness:** Cleans and maintains fire apparatus (engines, ambulances), equipment, and station facilities.
- **Public Safety:** Conducts fire safety inspections, station tours, and public education programs like CPR classes.
- **Documentation:** Conducts daily inventory, checks fluid levels, and records apparatus maintenance in reports. Completes run reports for all call types to include patient care reports and scene incident reports. Performs general records management and data collection.



Jeremy is coming up on his 20th year of service with MSFD!

Thank you for all you do for Manitou Springs!

PAGE 5

City Stormwater Maintenance

Routine City Stormwater maintenance is crucial to help prevent flooding in heavy rain events. There are over 300 stormwater drains in city limits. Stormwater maintenance is scheduled twice a year. The first round of maintenance is scheduled in the Spring before the heavy summer rains. The second round is scheduled after the heavy rains have finished.

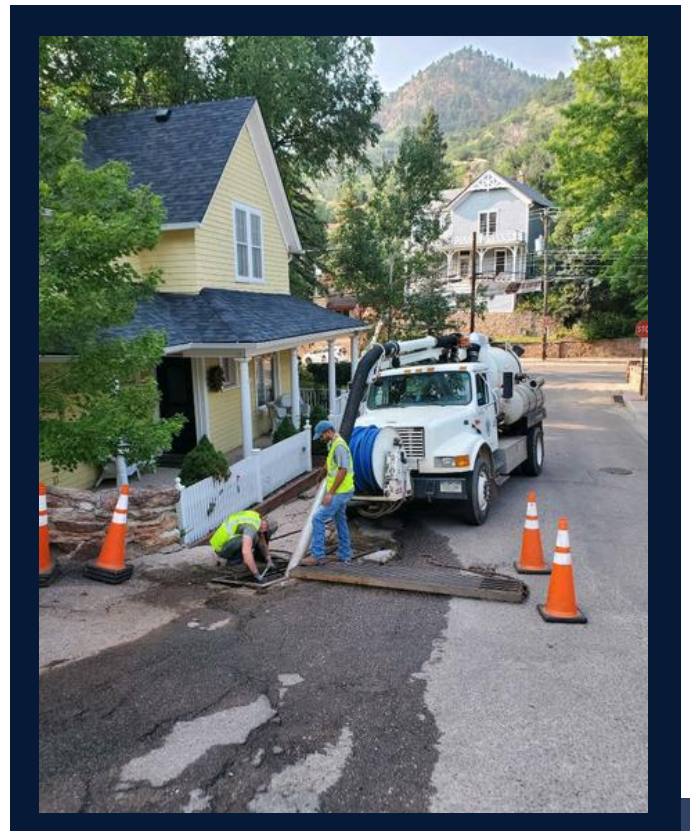
Stormwater maintenance consists of cleaning detention ponds, ditches, culverts, storm drains, flood gates, and the Williams Canyon drainage area. We use an assortment of heavy equipment to dig the excess dirt from the three detention ponds, dirt ditches, and the Williams Canyon drainage area. The culverts, storm drains, and flood gates are cleaned using our combination high pressure water-vacuum truck. High pressure water is used to deliver the excess dirt to the truck vacuum which is transferred to a debris tank.

It is essential that the storm water maintenance is completed. Each location can take a few hours to multiple days to clean. Williams Canyon takes the full crew a week to clean. The permeated blocks in Williams Canyon must be cleared to help with the recharging of some of the mineral spring wells. Without the routine maintenance, there would be flooding throughout the city.



Large floodgate

Ruxton Storm Jetting



Manitou Springs Reservoir Forest Health & Wildfire Mitigation

Strengthening Our Forests • Protecting Our Community • February 2026

In 2021, the City of Manitou Springs was awarded a Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant from the Colorado State Forest Service. This cost-share grant supported a partnership with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, allowing the City to treat 65 acres of forested land. The project aimed to reduce forest density, improve resilience to wildfire, and restore a healthier forest structure. The project was completed in October 2023.

June 2024 Wildfire: A Real-World Test

On June 2, 2024, a lightning strike ignited a fire in a previously mitigated area near the Manitou Reservoir. Thanks to mitigation efforts, the fire remained on the ground instead of transitioning into a crown fire, which spreads rapidly through treetops. Firefighters were able to contain the fire safely and efficiently.

Ongoing Mitigation & Future Plans

Manitou Springs continues to collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service on additional forest-health work. A prescribed burn expected in fall 2025 was postponed but may be revisited in 2026 depending on weather and fuel conditions.

Manitou Springs is continuing to do mitigation projects in 2026, plans are still being formulated for what projects will happen.

Wildfire Assessment on your Property

Would you like a free assessment of your property to identify ways to make your home and land more wildfire-adapted? Scan the QR code to schedule your assessment.

The Fire Department is also continuing its Property Owner Mitigation Grant Program. The department offers a 50/50 cost-share match of up to \$500 for eligible mitigation work. Please contact the Fire Department or scan the QR code for more information.



Before & After: Mitigation in Action



Figure 1 – Before Mitigation



Figure 2 – After Mitigation (fuel reduction and open understory)

Manitou Springs Reservoir Forest Health & Wildfire Mitigation

Strengthening Our Forests • Protecting Our Community • February 2026



Figure 3 — Before Mitigation (dense, overcrowded forest)



Figure 4 — Post Fuel-Reduction (open understory, improved forest health)

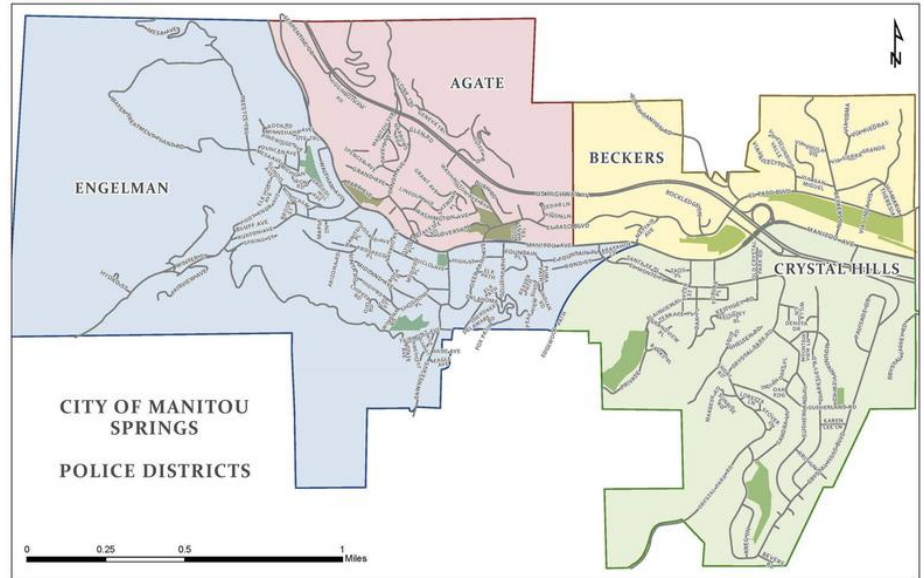


Figure 5 — Fire Event (2024 ground-level burn)

MANITOU SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Manitou Springs Police Department (MSPD) has updated the ambassador officers assigned to each neighborhood. The purpose of this program is to build consistency and strengthen relationships between officers and residents throughout Manitou Springs. It is designed so residents can contact their Neighborhood Ambassador Officers directly with questions or concerns about their area or general community matters.



Assigned officers cannot take crime reports directly. To report a non-emergency crime, residents must contact El Paso County Dispatch at 719-390-5555 so that all incidents are properly documented. Emergencies should always be reported by calling 911.

Call 719-685-5407 and enter your Ambassador Officer's extension

Agate District

Officer D. Bartlett - dbartlett@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2659
Officer M. Robertson - mrobertson@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2664

Crystal Hills District

Officer J. Newkirk - jnewkirk@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2655
Officer C. Newman - cnewman@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2538

Becker District

Officer D. Stinnette - dstinnette@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2661
Officer K. Perkins - kyle.perkins@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2643

Engleman District

Officer A. Hutchinson - ahutchinson@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2641
Corporal J. Schuelke - jschuelke@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2642

Business District

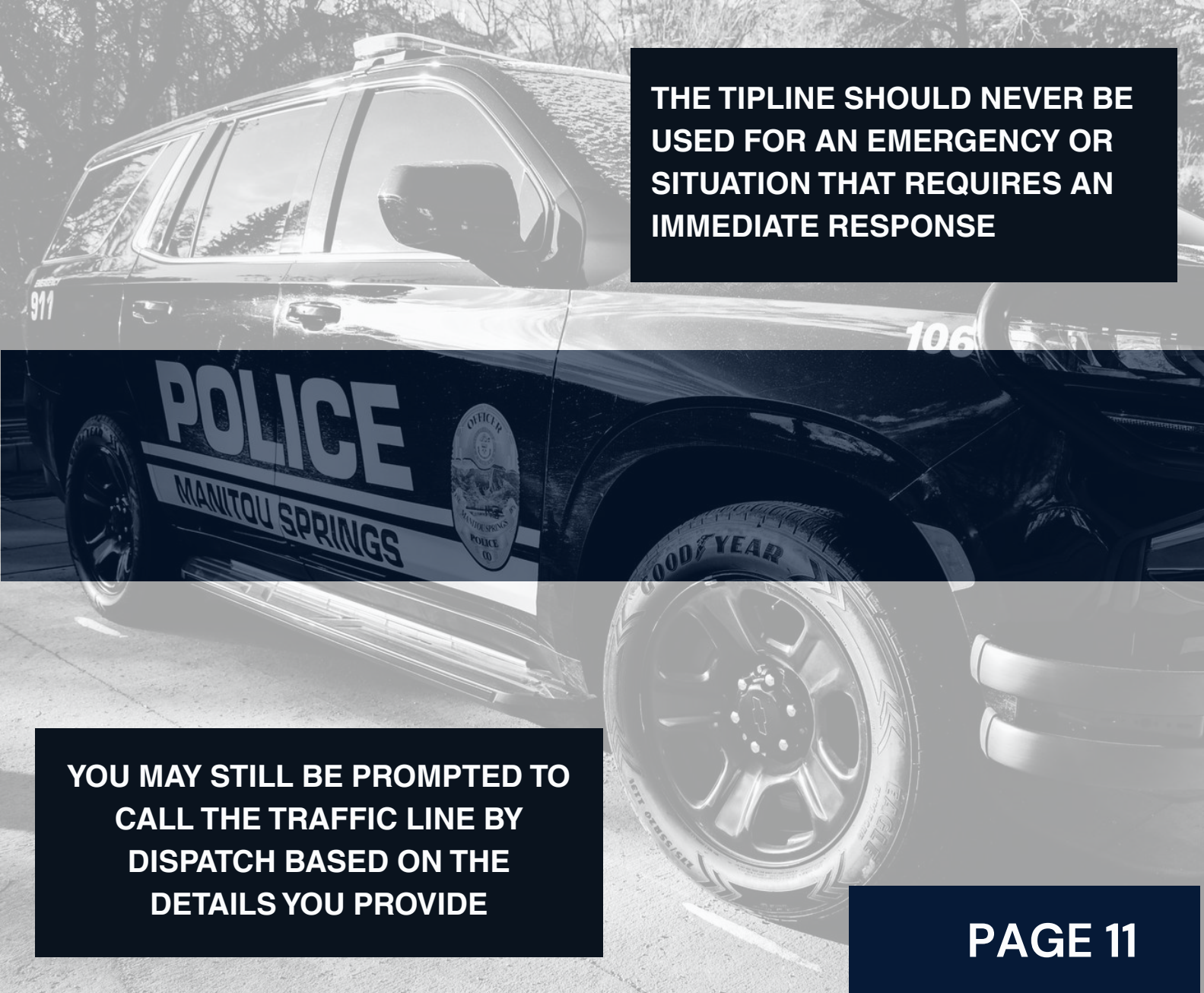
Officer G. Johnson - rjohnson@manitouspringsco.gov - Ext. 2625



TRAFFIC COMPLAINT LINE

CALL 719-685-2582

**A SERGEANT LISTENS TO THE TIPS CALLED IN AT THE START OF THEIR SHIFT
THE TIP IS ASSIGNED TO A WORKING PATROL OFFICER**



**THE TIPLINE SHOULD NEVER BE
USED FOR AN EMERGENCY OR
SITUATION THAT REQUIRES AN
IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

**YOU MAY STILL BE PROMPTED TO
CALL THE TRAFFIC LINE BY
DISPATCH BASED ON THE
DETAILS YOU PROVIDE**



POLICE BEAT



February 12, 2026 - February 26, 2026

Over the last 2 weeks, the Manitou Springs Police Department (MSPD) handled **334** Calls for Service resulting in **37** case reports.

Overall Stats:

- **32** Traffic Stops
- **19** Citizen Contacts
- **19** Check the Welfares
- **9** Suspicious Incidents



MSPD officers assisted the El Paso County Sheriff's Office outside of Manitou Springs on **33** Calls for Service.

Notable Cases

February 12, 23:46 - DUI, DRUGS: Officers stopped a vehicle with fictitious temp tags on Ruxton Avenue. After investigation, the driver was arrested for DUID, served a summons, and booked into jail for a felony and a misdemeanor warrant.

February 13, 03:40 - DUI & ASSAULT: Officers responded to a disturbance on Highway 24. Following investigation, it was determined an assault had occurred, but the victim did not want to press charges. The suspect was arrested for driving under the influence, served a summons, and then released.

February 13, 18:35 - AOA: Officers assisted the Green Mountain Falls Marshalls Office with an incident in Green Mountain Falls. A male party was reportedly acting strange, walking around his residence holding a firearm and had made suicidal statements, and two female parties were barricaded in a room inside the residence hiding from him. Law Enforcement was able to de-escalate the situation and disarm the male party, and a mental health unit from Teller County responded to evaluate the subject.

February 14, 03:04 - DUI: Officers stopped a car for swerving and nearly hitting a curb in the 300 block of Manitou Avenue. After investigation, the driver was arrested for DUI, served a summons, and then released.

February 14, 17:20 - DUI: Officers observed a vehicle driving erratically in the 100 Block of Manitou Avenue and conducted a traffic stop. The contact developed into a DUI investigation and one suspect was arrested for DUI, served a summons, and later released.

February 14, 22:56 - DUI, DRUGS: Officers stopped a vehicle for speeding, swerving, and expired license plate in the 300 block of Manitou Avenue. After investigation, the driver was arrested for DUI, served a summons, and later released.



POLICE BEAT



February 12, 2026 - February 26, 2026

Notable Cases, *Continued*

February 15, 18:40 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, DAMAGED PROPERTY: Officers were informed that and observed that an unknown subject had spray-painted on multiple parking signs in the 500-600 blocks of Manitou Avenue. The investigation is ongoing.

February 15, 19:47 - ASSAULT: Officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 1000 block of Manitou Avenue. Multiple witnesses and suspects were interviewed. The investigation is ongoing.

February 15, 20:40 - HARASSMENT: Officers took a report of harassment in the 700 block of Manitou Avenue. After investigation, a male party was cited for harassment and released.

February 16, 18:21 - DUI: Officers responded to W HWY 24 on reports of a broken-down vehicle blocking the right lane. Upon arrival, officers noticed the driver of the vehicle was showing signs of alcohol/drug impairment. The driver was arrested for DUI, their vehicle towed, served a summons, and later released.

February 17, 14:01 - DV, UNFOUNDED: Officers responded to a cold criminal mischief and domestic violence. Officers investigated on scene and conducted follow up interviews and were not able to develop probable cause for arrests of either party at this time.

February 17, 23:00 - AOA: Officers assisted the Fountain Police Department with a DUI investigation.

February 18, 00:03 - AOA: Officers assisted the Colorado State Patrol with a DUI investigation.

February 19, 10:45 - STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERY: Officers were dispatched to a parking complaint in the 3700 block of Red Canyon Place. While investigating, officers ran the VIN of the complaint vehicle, and it returned stolen out of Fort Collins. The reporting party was notified, and the vehicle was recovered by Bugs Towing.

February 20, 02:27 - DUI, DRUGS & POWPO: Officers stopped a vehicle for swerving and license plate return not matching the color of the vehicle in the 300 block of Manitou Avenue. After investigation, the driver was booked into jail for several warrants and new felony charges.

February 20, 20:24 - AOA: Officers assisted the Colorado State Patrol by towing a vehicle that had been involved in a traffic accident on Highway 24. After the initial accident, the vehicle remained on scene in such a way that numerous 911 calls were placed by passersby, stating it was causing a hazard.



POLICE BEAT



February 12, 2026 - February 26, 2026

Notable Cases, *Continued*

February 21, 22:14 - DUI; AMPHETAMINE POSSESSION; & OBSTRUCTION POLICE: Officers contacted a vehicle in a parking lot of a closed business in the 3100 block of West Colorado Avenue. The driver appeared to be under the influence and an investigation was initiated. During this investigation, officers attempted to arrest the party, he attempted to run away and was subsequently tased. He was taken into custody and charged accordingly.

February 22, 22:25 - DUI: Officers observed a vehicle exceeding the speed limit by more than 17 MPH in the 100 block of Manitou Avenue. Officers initiated a traffic stop with the vehicle and noticed the driver was showing signs of impairment. The driver was arrested for DUI, served a summons, and later released.

February 24, 02:00 - DUI, DRUGS: Officers stopped a vehicle for a defective turn signal in the 3100 block of West Colorado Avenue. The driver was DUID, served a summons, and later released.

CONTACTING MSPD

Non-Emergencies: Call dispatch at 719-390-5555

For Emergencies: Call 911

For Lost and Found Items: Call evidence at 719-685-2612

Visit the MSPD webpage at
<https://bit.ly/MSPDWebpage>
OR SCAN THE QR CODE



Manitou Springs Fire Department Stats

Responded to **17** emergency incidents.

- **13** medical incidents
 - **4** fire/hazmat/other incidents
- 1 incident at the Incline/Barr Trail

Conducted **1** class totaling **2 hours** of training, covering *Forcible Entry*. This equated to **24 personnel hours**.

Serve Your Community: Boards & Commissions Openings

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) – Volunteer Opportunity

Interested in shaping the future of the Pikes Peak Region? The City encourages residents interested in regional planning and public service to apply for the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), which advises the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) Board of Directors on transportation, air and water quality, and community compatibility planning.

CAC members represent local governments, community organizations, and the public, and provide valuable local perspective on regional initiatives. The commitment generally includes one monthly meeting, attended in person or virtually. Residents with an interest in civic engagement and regional issues are encouraged to apply and serve!

If you would like more information on the CAC or interested in applying, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov

City Boards, Commissions, & Committee Vacancies

City Planning Commission (CPC) – 3 Alternate members

Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) – 2 Alternate members

Housing Advisory Board (HAB) – 1 Regular member and 2 Alternate members

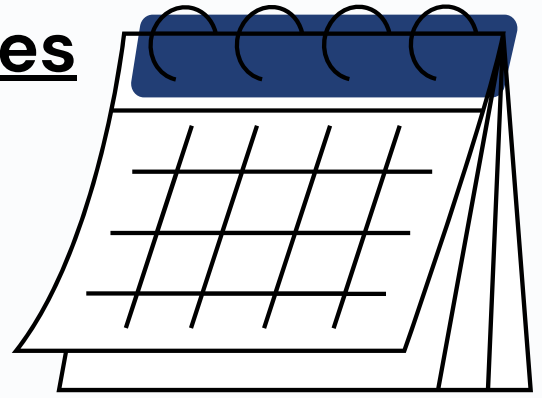
Mobility and Parking Board (MAP) – 3 Alternate members

Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) – 1 Alternate member

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) – 1 Regular member and 3 Alternate members

Apply today by visiting the [City's Website!](#)

Upcoming Events & Activities



MARCH

- Tuesday, Mar 3** – City Council Meeting
- Saturday, Mar 7** – Community Connect Event
- Tuesday, Mar 17** – City Council Meeting
- Wednesday, Mar 18** – Manni Awards

APRIL

- Saturday, Apr 4** – Black Canyon Volunteer Day
- Tuesday, Apr 7** – Neighborhood Chipping Day (Zone 5)
- Tuesday, Apr 7** – City Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Apr 21** – City Council Meeting
- Tuesday, Apr 28** – Neighborhood Chipping Day (Zone 3)

MAY

- Saturday, May 2** – Great American Clean Up
- Tuesday, May 12** – Coffee with a Cop
- Tuesday, May 19** – Neighborhood Chipping Day (Zone 7)
- Thursday, May 21** – Last Day of School
- Monday May 25** – Memorial Day





MARCY MORRISON BRIDGE MOSAIC REPAIR

This week, you might notice mosaic panels missing from the Marcy Morrison Bridge on Becker's Lane between Manitou Avenue and El Paso Blvd.

CRANE is beginning some restoration work on the artwork, which has been affected by temperature extremes.

The repair, which will be complete in April or May (depending on weather), will provide long-term stabilization of the art piece.

For questions, please contact CRANE at director@manitouspringscd.org.



STAYING CONNECTED

Is there a topic you want to see covered in future newsletters?

Submit your requests to citywideneews@manitouspringsco.gov



Visit: <https://bit.ly/COMSNewsandAlerts> or scan the QR Code!

Communication Methods

You can receive news and updates from the City directly on our website (manitouspringsco.gov), the City News Digital Newspaper, Facebook, Instagram, and Bluesky.

The City also uses a mass notifications system, CivicReady, for both emergent and local alerts.



To sign up for **City Wide Emergent Alerts and Local Alerts** – Water Disruptions, Road/Sidewalk Closures, Parking Restrictions, Utility work, traffic impacts/changes or to receive the **City News Digital Newspaper** visit: <https://bit.ly/COMSNewsandAlerts>



The City News Digital Newspaper can be delivered directly to your email inbox, BI-WEEKLY, or as a link in a text message, depending on your preferences and the information you provide. **Additional details:** It will also be available on the City website and all social media channels.



An ADA-accessible version of this Edition of **City News** is available upon request by contacting the City's ADA Coordinator at (719) 685-2554 or by email jfryer@manitouspringsco.gov

