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Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.



Upcoming Meetings AND EVENTS

Join us for Thornton City Council Meetings in the Council Chambers at 9500 Civic Center Dr.—everyone's welcome!

July 14

July 28

August 11

August 25

Thornton Police Community Meeting

Join Thornton PD for a series of community meetings featuring speakers on a variety of public safety and community-focused topics. Learn, connect, and take part in meaningful conversations that help build a safer, stronger community.

July 30, 6 to 8 p.m. at Trail Winds Recreation Center

This session will focus on the department's use of cameras and technology to support public safety.

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THORNTON

9500 Civic Center Dr.
Thornton CO 80229

Fireworks can fire up the season: know the safety rules before you celebrate



As we gear up for the July 4th holiday, it's hard to miss the colorful fireworks tents popping up around unincorporated Adams County. They promise big booms and fiery fun, but, "Here in Thornton, all fireworks are illegal, even the ones that stay on the ground," says Thornton Fire Department Community Safety and Information Officer Sabrina Iacovetta. "It can be confusing because you'll see those tents nearby, and yes, you can buy them, but you can't legally possess or use them within Thornton city limits."

There are new ordinances regarding the use of fireworks. Highlights from the ordinance changes include:

1. Property owners, renters, or managers can now be cited if fireworks are used on their property.

2. The time period for a second offense has increased from one year to two years. This means someone can receive higher fines for a second violation during two consecutive July 4 holiday seasons. For example, if someone receives a citation on July 3, 2026, and another on July 4, 2027, the second violation would carry increased fines.

3. The fireworks regulations are now all located in Chapter 38 instead of being included in amendments to the International Fire Code in Chapter 10. This makes the rules easier for the public, attorneys, and defendants to find and understand, and helps simplify enforcement.

4. The definition of peace officer has been updated so Code Enforcement and Fire personnel, not just police officers, can issue charges and seize fireworks.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks spark thousands of fires across the country every year. Even sparklers, which seem harmless, burn at a scorching 1,200 degrees and are responsible for about a quarter of all fireworks-related ER visits.

So, head over to Carpenter Park Fields on July 4 for a full day and evening of live music, food trucks, and one epic fireworks display, safely handled by the pros. Let's keep this holiday full of fun, food, and fabulous fireworks done safely!

CITY OF THORNTON

COMMUNITY MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 2

6 - 7:30 p.m.

TRAIL WINDS RECREATION CENTER, 13495 HOLLY STREET

Join us for a relaxed chance to connect with City Council and staff, share your thoughts, and learn more about our community. Bring your questions, enjoy a bite to eat, and meet new friends and neighbors.



For more information visit goCOT.net/CommunityMeetings.



Together we can weather the drought: tips for reducing your water use

Information provided by Thorntonwater.com

Thank you to all the Thornton water customers who are doing their part to save water for our community this year. So far, the drought response has been successful, and we are on track with meeting our 10% water savings goal. There is more work to do as Thornton continues to be in Stage 1 Drought Response, and the city is asking for your continued help to reduce the community's water use this summer.

During Mandatory Stage 1 Drought Restrictions:

- Limit lawn watering to two days/week. Customers can choose their two watering days. For recommended watering times, refer to the 2-Day Watering Guide pictured here.
- No lawn watering between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Watering of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and vegetable gardens is allowed on any day, as needed. Younger trees and shrubs (less than two years old) benefit from regular watering to help them establish healthy root systems.
- To minimize evaporation and to allow water to soak into the roots, avoid watering in the heat of the day.

Thornton is discouraging installation of new grass seed and sod during drought; however, irrigation permits will be available for water customers who can't postpone installing new grass sod or seed this year. The permit form can be found on ThorntonWater.com. The permit will allow seed and sod to be installed in September and October and will provide a variance from the 2-day per week watering rule. Fees are \$50 for a 21-day seed and sod variance and \$100 for a 42-day native grass variance. Permits will not be allowed in July and August. Plan lawn projects for fall, not during the summer heat.

To optimize water efficiency this summer you can:

- Follow the recommended watering guide. Keep in mind, your lawn may need fewer minutes per zone to stay healthy. Adjust minutes each month.
- Water your lawn using the cycle and soak method: Break watering times into three shorter cycles to give water a chance to soak into the ground and minimize runoff. Learn how to program your sprinkler controller at ThorntonWater.com/SavingOutdoors.
- Sign up for a Free Slow the Flow Sprinkler Consultation through Resource Central to test your sprinkler system for issues or inefficiencies and get help



- programming your controller. Learn more at ThorntonWater.com/Rebates.
- Monitor Your Water Use in WaterSmart: Customers can check their daily water use at Thornton.WaterSmart.com to catch leaks early and better understand their water use.

What's Thornton Parks and Recreation doing during the drought?

Information provided by ThorntonWater.com

Just like Thornton residents, Thornton Parks and Recreation is actively working to reduce water use by 10% during the drought by monitoring water usage, finding and fixing leaks quickly, and strategically maintaining public landscapes. High-use grass areas, like sports fields, are being prioritized to ensure safe recreation throughout the summer, but watering has been decreased in low-traffic grass areas. Trees and shrubs are also a priority during drought to ensure we continue to invest in the cooling and quality of life benefits they provide to public landscapes. You may see watering in parks during the day due to sprinkler system efficiency checks or high-traffic turf recovery watering. If you have any questions about watering practices or want to report a broken sprinkler system component in a park, please submit a service request at goCOT.net/MyThornton.

Learn more about Thornton's drought response and read the mandatory water use rules and regulations at ThorntonWater.com/Drought.



Thornton Water Project update

Information provided by ThorntonWater.com

Since 1986, Thornton has pursued a long-term strategy to diversify and strengthen its water supply through development of supplies from the Cache la Poudre River. This effort, initiated through acquisition of agricultural water rights, has now progressed to construction of the pipeline and source water pump station from a reservoir near Fort Collins to the Wes Brown Water Treatment Plant. At completion the pipeline will be 70 miles in length and run through Larimer County (10 miles), Weld County (48 miles), and Adams County (12 miles).

Progress Update: In total, 44 of 70 miles of pipeline (62%) have been installed.

- Segment A - 11.3 of 11.5 miles of pipeline has been installed.
- Segment B - 15.9 of 16 miles of pipeline has been installed.
- Segment C - 8.7 of 14.4 miles of pipeline has been installed.
- Segment D - Complete (7 miles installed).
- Segment E - 0.7 of 10.5 miles of pipeline has been installed.

- Segment F - Design is well underway and right-of-way acquisitions are being negotiated with the property owners along the alignment.
- Source Water Pump Station in Larimer County - Design is underway and bids have been received for the early works packages for the procurement of long lead-time pump equipment and power feed installation. The access roadway from Highway 1 to the pump station is complete.

Schedule:

- Construction of all infrastructure is scheduled to be completed in early to mid-2028.
- Start-up and testing of the pipeline and communications equipment is anticipated to occur into early 2029.
- Water delivery is expected by summer 2029.

For more information or to see a map of the progress, visit ThorntonWater.com.

NEED HELP

Paying your water bill?

The Thornton Water Assistance Program helps low-income individuals and families to pay their water bills. All Thornton Water Utility (TWU) customers, including homeowners and renters, may apply for the program once every 12 months. The 2026 water credit for all eligible TWU applicants is \$528. City residents also qualify for up to an additional \$60 stormwater credit. Credits are distributed over 12 months and funding is limited. For more information, call **720-977-5815**, email **Assistance@ThorntonCO.gov**, or visit in person at Community Connections, 9471 Dorothy Blvd. during business hours.

FREE FOOD AND RESOURCE

Drive-thru events

The Thornton Community Connections and Adams County Human Services Free Produce Box and Resource event will take place every third Friday of the month through October at 9471 Dorothy Blvd., from 9-10:30 a.m. Reservation required, call **720-977-5800** to learn more. For immediate food assistance, call **211**, visit **211colorado.org**, or call the Hunger Free Colorado Resource Hotline at **855-855-4626**. To find a Food Bank/Pantry near you, you can use the Food Bank of the Rockies Food Locator at **foodbankrockies.org/find-food**.

If you're able to financially support the efforts of the Food Bank of the Rockies, there are several giving options. Whether it's a one-time gift or monthly donations, your gift can make a huge impact on community support. Visit **foodbankrockies.org/give/giving-opportunities** to discover which option works best for you.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

serves as an Adams County Human Services Outreach Site

Thornton Community Connections serves as an Adams County Human Services Outreach Site. If you have questions about or are interested in applying for benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), Medicaid, and cash assistance, you can come by and get help on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Community Connections at **720-977-5800** or **Connections@ThorntonCO.gov**.

STAY CONNECTED

to your community

The new Community Connections bilingual monthly newsletter shares local city resources, programs, services, and updates from trusted nonprofit and faith-based partners who care about our neighbors.

Sign up and stay connected to what's happening in your community. For more information, visit **goCOT.net/ccalerts** or call Community Connections at **720-977-5800** or **Connections@ThorntonCO.gov**.

New interim name for Thornton Shopping Center Redevelopment Site: The Market at 88th

Information provided by businessinthornton.com

The Market at 88th has been selected as the interim name for the redevelopment of the Thornton Shopping Center site, located at the northeast corner of 88th Avenue and Washington Street. "This name rose to the top through strong community input and feedback," said Thornton Redevelopment Administrator Chad Howell. The interim name was finalized by City Council on April 14.

As Thornton continues environmental cleanup efforts on the 15.6-acre site, staff is introducing the property to developers nationwide. "The new name helps reflect a shared vision for a vibrant, mixed-use destination centered

around retail and community gathering spaces," said Howell.

Thornton launched a two-step developer selection process on May 6, expected to continue through 2026. While The Market at 88th will guide branding in the near term, the selected development team will have the opportunity to rename the site as the project takes shape.

For more information or to view materials, visit **goCOT.net/thorntonshopctr**.

Join the 2026 Water-Wise Garden Tour on June 27

Information provided by ThorntonWater.com

Join Thornton Water's 2026 Water-Wise Garden Tour on June 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for water-wise gardening inspiration! Explore beautiful low-water yards across Thornton, from small, budget-friendly conversions to full-scale water-wise showstoppers and learn from low-water gardening experts and homeowners who have converted lawns to water-wise landscapes. Learn more at **ThorntonWater.com/Events** or call Water Resources at 720-977-6600.



Planning advances for future N Line Station areas in Thornton

Information provided by Thornton Planning

Thornton is moving forward with Station Area Master Plans, STAMPs, for two future N Line commuter rail stations near the intersections of 144th Avenue and York Street, and Highway 7 and Colorado Boulevard.

These stations will complete the N Line commuter rail connection from downtown Denver to north Thornton. The plans will guide future development and land use around each station area, with the goal of creating walkable, transit-oriented communities that include a mix of housing, jobs, amenities and open space.

Since work began at the start of 2026, the project team has focused on analyzing existing conditions in each station area and gathering community input. This analysis includes land use, transportation, infrastructure and market conditions, along with feedback from community meetings, stakeholder outreach and surveys.

In recent months, the city and consultant team used that input to develop a shared vision, goals and initial concepts for each station area.

The next phase of the project will focus on refining land use concepts, with additional opportunities for community feedback. Final plans are expected to be completed by spring 2027.

Residents can stay informed and get involved by visiting **goCOT.net/StationAreaPlans**.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THORNTON SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE, JULY 1-31

Donate backpacks and school supplies to help local students in need start the school year right! We are collecting new and gently-used backpacks, new crayons, colored pencils and markers, #2 pencils, glue sticks, highlighters, erasers, college and wide-ruled loose-leaf paper, 3-ring binders of all sizes, spiral and composition notebooks, blue and black ink pens, scissors, rulers, and protractors.

For more information and drop-off locations, call 720-977-5800 or email **Connections@ThorntonCO.gov**.



Quebec Street widening projects

Information provided by Thornton Planning

Development continues along the Quebec Street corridor, where several projects are underway and additional development may follow. As growth continues, traffic impacts are expected both now and for the foreseeable future.

Some traffic impacts may be minor, but along this busy corridor, many will be noticeable. The work to be completed, the current estimated timeline and anticipated traffic impacts are reflected in the map. These impacts may include short-term or extended lane closures, as well as roadway closures.

All traffic-related closures, both short- and long-term, are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and consider other traffic impacts occurring in the surrounding area. Timelines and conditions may change due to control measures that may or may not be within the city's control, but the information provided reflects the current outlook.

The city understands the frustration these impacts may cause for residents and appreciates the community's patience as construction continues.

For the latest information or to share questions or concerns, email

CityDevelopment@ThorntonCO.gov or call 303-538-7295.

Thornton launches first-ever Planning Academy this fall

Information provided by Thornton Planning

This fall, residents will have the opportunity to learn how city planning guides development in Thornton through the city's first-ever Planning Academy.

The course offers an inside look at the principles and processes that shape the built environment, covering key topics such as zoning, public engagement, transportation, landscaping and building inspections.

Anyone age 16 or older who lives, works or studies in Thornton is invited to apply. The program is designed to help participants gain a deeper understanding of city planning and encourage greater civic engagement.

Applications are due July 17. To learn more and apply, visit goCOT.net/PlanningAcademy.

Free classes at Thornton Active Adult Center help veterans learn how to obtain hearing aids and other benefits

Information provided by Thornton Active Adult Center, goCOT.net/aac

Veterans can learn how to obtain hearing aids and other available benefits during free drop-in classes at the Thornton Active Adult Center, 11181 Colorado Blvd.

The sessions will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, June 25, and Thursday, August 27. No registration is required.

The classes are led by Air Force veteran Peter Mortaro, a retired senior veteran service officer who spent his career helping veterans and their dependents secure benefits for which they were eligible. He now volunteers at the Thornton Active Adult Center, where he continues assisting veterans through the process and encourages them to attend the classes to learn more about available resources. For more information, call 303-255-7850.



LIVE MUSIC FROM 5-6:30 P.M.
MOVIE AT 7 P.M.

Enjoy a FREE concert, movie, and summer treat courtesy of Thornton City Council.

Visit GOCOT.NET/RHYTHMSREELS or call 303-255-7800 for dates, locations, musicians, and movie titles.



Your Thornton

TRASH & RECYCLE CALENDAR

City trash/recycling customers can access their 2026 collection calendar, sign up to receive reminders, print a schedule, or add it to their personal iCal, Google Calendar, or Microsoft Outlook Calendar at goCOT.net/TrashRecycling.

Customers can also download our City of Thornton Recycles mobile app from the App Store and on Google Play.

Visit goCOT.net/TrashRecycling, email EnvironmentalServices@ThorntonCO.gov, or call 720-977-6200 for details about any of the programs listed below.

Independence Day, July 4 - NO Delay - There will NOT be a delay in collection service Friday, July 3. Please place containers at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular pickup day.

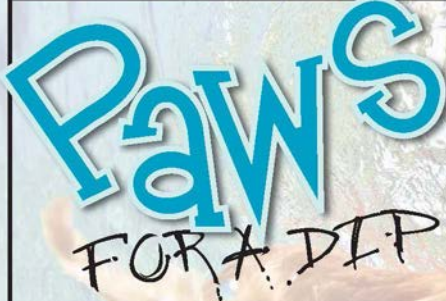
Tree Branch/Organics Drop-Off - July 11, August 8, IMC, 12450 Washington St., 8 a.m. to noon, proof of residency required, restrictions apply.

Landfill Day - August 22, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., Republic Services Tower Landfill, 19260 E. 88th Ave., Commerce City. One truck or carload only. Proof of residency is required and restrictions apply. Additional \$38 fee for mattresses and box springs.

Mattress Drop-off - August 29, 8 a.m.-noon, IMC, 12450 Washington St., Thornton residents only, proof of residency required, appointments are mandatory and limited. There is a four-piece maximum per household. Online registration will be available six weeks prior to event date.

FAQ: Can I place yard waste in my green recycle container?

No. Please keep yard waste out of the green container! Grass clippings, tree branches, etc., do not belong in the recycle container and have the potential to contaminate an entire load of recyclables. Consider mulching your grass clippings or bring them and your branches to the IMC on the next drop-off date.



Saturday, August 15 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
City Pool, 2141 E. 95th Ave.

\$5 per dog and one human companion
\$1 per additional human
Children 12 and under FREE!



Proof of current pet vaccinations required. goCOT.net/pawsforadip | 720-977-5917

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Thornton's one-stop resource shop

Thornton Community Connections English/Spanish bilingual team members inventory community-based programs offered by non-profits, the faith-based community, government organizations, and other partners so we can best connect community members with the services they need. From basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter, to social and mental health support, contact us to make the connection. Community Connections is located at 9471 Dorothy Blvd. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call us at **720-977-5800**, or email us at **Connections@ThorntonCO.gov**.

THORNTON ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Thornton Assistance Program (TAP) helps lower-income households financially with five different assistance programs. Annually, eligible applicants can receive:

Water bill credits, curbside junk and debris removal for only \$15, a 50% reduction in city recreational activities costs, a partial property tax rebate, a partial food sales tax rebate.

Only one application is required to apply for all five programs. The program is city funded and administered by Community Connections. Apply now before funds run out. Visit **goCOT.net/assistanceapp** to apply or visit Community Connections, 9471 Dorothy Blvd., to pick up an application. Call **720-977-5815** if you have questions.

IN-PERSON PAYMENT OPTION for Thornton Utility Customers

One less stop: pay your bills where you shop.

Thornton has a new in-person payment option for utility customers. Payments can now be made at Walmart and King Soopers locations through CheckFreePay, a nationwide walk-in bill payment service. Hours of availability vary by location; however, in-person payments are generally accepted seven days a week until 9 p.m.

Payments must be made using cash or a debit card and will be credited to the city on the following business day. A transaction fee will be assessed by the retailer for use of this service. Customers must present their 13-digit account number and the 9-digit biller ZIP code, 802294326 (no dash), when making a payment.



Mural program offers large-scale creations and a dive into Thornton history

Information provided by Thornton Arts & Culture, ArtsThornton.com

A free, grant-funded summer program gave youth ages 12 to 18 the opportunity to create large-scale murals while exploring local history. Youth participated in one of two classes each led by a professional muralist to design and complete two 4-by-6-foot murals alongside their peers. The experience included a tour of city archives, a presentation from a local historian, and instruction on transforming the theme of Thornton history into collaborative mixed-media art. A reception celebrating the students' work is planned for the fall, with the murals set to be displayed throughout Adams County. For more information, visit **goCOT.net/ArtsAcademy**.



Here's what's happening in Thornton Arts & Culture

Information provided by Thornton Arts & Culture, ArtsThornton.com

Thornton history exhibit celebrates our 70th anniversary

Through artifacts, newspaper articles, photographs and books, guests can explore our city's rich history while reflecting on its bright future. The history exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Thornton Arts & Culture Center Annex, next to the OZ Gallery, 9211 Dorothy Blvd. Admission is free. Children younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Thornton Music Series

Youth on Record – Friday, July 17, 6-7:30 pm.

Thornton Community Center, 2211 Eppinger Blvd.

CMDance – Friday, August 21, 7-8 p.m.

Thornton Arts and Culture Center, 9209 Dorothy Blvd.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit **goCOT.net/MusicSeries**.



Community Class: Healing through Color: A Watercolor Workshop

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Participants will explore painting, led by OZ Gallery artist Del Hoyo, highlighting the therapeutic qualities of color and artistic expression. Ages 16+. Free with registration. Thornton Arts & Culture Center, 9209 Dorothy Blvd.

Dino Fest

Kids of all ages can unleash their inner scientists through interactive STEM activities, hands-on exhibits, and dino-themed adventures for the whole family. Saturday, August 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Lu Murray Park, 9209 Dorothy Blvd. Free.

Arts Academy Camps: Fun for all ages and interests!

Camps include: Bugtopia Art Camp, K-Pop Youth Dance Camp, Kidstage Drama Camp, Youth Art Exploration Camp, Youth Mural Camp, Adult Drop-in Open Studio: Butterfly Pavilion and Colorado Ballet: Metamorphosis Moves. For more information, visit **goCOT.net/ArtsAcademy**.



Art Exhibit: A Colorful Voyage by Cristina Del Hoyo

Artist Cristina Del Hoyo transforms personal experience into abstract works rooted in color that explore themes of identity, belonging and emotional restoration. Visit the OZ Gallery to see her exhibition. July 13-September 18; Tuesday-Friday, 12-5 p.m., second Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Reception: Friday, July 24, 6-8 p.m.



Join Thornton City Council to hear about recent ward improvements, connect with neighbors, and celebrate the progress in your community. Food will be available for purchase from an on-site food truck.

Skylake Ranch Open Lands | Wednesday, July 8 | 6-8 p.m. | 119th Avenue & Holly St.
Hosted by Ward 3 Council Members David Acunta & Devin Byrd

Questions?
Call 720-977-5939.

Cherrywood Park | Wednesday, August 26 | 6-8 p.m. | 13900 Garfield Pl.
Hosted by Ward 4 Council Members Chris Russell & Drew Morris



THORNTON
PARKS, RECREATION &
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Help strengthen our community: Volunteer today!

Information provided by goCOT.net/volunteer

Thornton volunteers are the heart of our community. Every act of service, big or small, helps create a stronger, kinder, and more connected city for everyone. From supporting seniors and beautifying neighborhoods to helping families and creating memorable community events, volunteers make an incredible impact every day. There are many opportunities to get involved and make a difference:

- Yardbusters – Assisting senior or disabled residents with lawn maintenance
- Community Clean-Ups – Helping keep Thornton beautiful
- Special Event Assistance – Supporting fun and engaging community events
- Produce Box Distribution – Helping provide food resources to residents in need
- BioBlitz – Participating in environmental and wildlife discovery activities
- Adopt-a-Flowerbed – Beautifying public spaces throughout the city
- Friends of the Parks – Supporting Thornton parks and open spaces
- Adaptive & Inclusive Recreation / Special Olympics – Creating inclusive recreational opportunities for all abilities
- Local Business “Days of Service” – Bringing businesses and community together through volunteerism

Volunteers are needed, appreciated, and truly valued. Whether you can give a few hours or become involved year-round, your time and talents can positively impact lives across Thornton.

Ready to get involved? Visit goCOT.net/volunteer and sign up under “Volunteer Information.” For additional information, contact Belia at **303-255-7831** or email Belia.Dameron@ThorntonCO.gov.

4th of July IN THORNTON

JULY 4

PARTY STARTS AT NOON!

CARPENTER PARK FIELDS

108th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard

Food ♦ Beer Garden ♦ Two Stages of Entertainment

Parachutists Jump at 9:30 p.m.
followed by “Red, White & BOOM!” FANTABULOUS Fireworks

THORNTON
PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Visit goCOT.net/july4 or call 303-255-7800 for more information.
PLEASE CONSIDER ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION TO THIS EVENT. Carpooling is strongly recommended. No recreational vehicles (RVs) ALLOWED.

Folow us on Facebook: facebook.com/thorntonprcp.

PRESENTED BY

— THORNTON —

BARREL & BEER

FESTIVAL

BEER, WINE & SPIRITS TASTING

Featuring The 6 Million Dollar Band

Saturday, August 15 | 3-7 p.m.*

Trail Winds Park | 13385 Holly St.

General Admission	VIP Experience	Designated Driver
Presale: \$40 Door: \$55	Presale: \$80 Door: \$95 Enjoy early entry, full-sized pours, mixed cocktails, & food in a special VIP area	Driver (Non-Drinking) \$10

*VIP admission begins at 2 p.m. General admission begins at 3 p.m. This is a 21+ event. No pets permitted; service dogs are exempt. For event details, visit goCOT.net/barrelandbeerfest.

2ND ANNUAL THORNTON DINO FEST

WHERE CURIOSITY ROARS!

Saturday, August 8
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thornton Arts & Culture Center | LuMurray Park
9209 Dorothy Boulevard, Thornton
720-977-5880

ARTSTHORNTON.COM

What's happening in Thornton?

Visit ThorntonCO.gov for meetings and events.

Thornton's AIR Boxing knocks out stereotypes

Information provided by goCOT.net/air

Each week at the Thornton Community Center, the Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation (AIR) Program holds boxing training sessions designed for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. "Sometimes, when people hear about the Thornton AIR Program, they respond with "aww," describing it as sweet or cute," says Thornton Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation Coordinator Becky Post. "People often react with surprise or view the program primarily through the lens of disability, rather than recognizing the athleticism, dedication and personal growth the athletes demonstrate, just as participants do in any other sports program."

Inside the boxing gym, AIR athletes are fierce. The environment is supportive, but it is also demanding. Participants sweat through workouts, hit heavy bags, build endurance, and challenge themselves physically and mentally. Expectations are individualized, not lowered. "If someone steps into the boxing gym during the program, they may see joy and silliness," says Post. "They will also see people pushing themselves and moving past limits others may have expected of them."

The next time you meet someone with a disability, take a moment to consider the assumptions people sometimes

make without realizing it. Comments such as, 'Aww, that's adorable,' or 'even I can't punch like that,' may sound harmless, but they often reflect deeply rooted assumptions about disability that reinforce unfair stereotypes.

"These comments suggest surprise that someone with a developmental disability could be strong, skilled, competitive or determined," says Volunteer Coach Dan Baran. Meanwhile, boxing coaches have watched athletes master complex, multistep hitting combinations, build new strength and power in their punches, and succeed at conditioning exercises even coaches thought might be out of reach for some participants. "Everyone carries assumptions that can unintentionally limit what people with disabilities are believed capable of achieving, but AIR Boxing is working to knock those stereotypes out, one punch at a time."

The AIR Program is passionate about ensuring participants have opportunities to authentically develop their skills, choose how they recreate, work hard, and take on individual challenges uniquely suited to their abilities and interests. If you're interested in participating or volunteering, visit goCOT.net/AIR or contact Becky Post at Becky.Post@ThorntonCO.gov or call 720-977-5702.



City Facilities & Commonly Used Numbers

Thornton City Hall
9500 Civic Center Dr., 80229
Thornton Police Department and Municipal Court
9551 Civic Center Dr., 80229
Infrastructure Maintenance Center
12450 Washington St., 80241
Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center
11151 Colorado Blvd., 80233
Thornton Community Center
2211 Eppinger Blvd., 80229
Thornton Active Adult Center
11181 Colorado Blvd., 80233
Thornton Arts & Culture Center
9209 Dorothy Blvd., 80229
Trail Winds Recreation Center
13495 Holly St., 80602
Thornton Community Connections
9471 Dorothy Blvd., 80229

Active Adult Center..... 303-255-7850
Alliance Business Assist. Center... 720-674-3547
Animal Control 720-977-5250
Arts & Culture Center..... 720-977-5880
Building Inspection 303-538-7250
Building Permits 303-538-7250
Business Assistance 303-538-7605
Carpenter Recreation Center 303-255-7800
City Clerk's Office 303-538-7230
City Communications 303-538-7279
City Council & Mayor 303-538-7002
City Development 303-538-7295
City Manager's Office 303-538-7002
Code Compliance 303-538-7517
Community Connections 720-977-5800
Economic Development 303-538-7605
Fire Department (non-emergency) ... 303-538-7602
Human Resources 303-538-7245
Legal 303-538-7210
Municipal Court 720-977-5400
Parks, Recreation & Community Programs 303-255-7800
Police (non-emergency) 720-977-5150
Pothole Repair 720-977-6464
Snow & Ice Control 720-977-6464
Trail Winds Recreation Center 720-977-5700
Trash & Recycling 720-977-6200
Utilities (Water, Sewer) 720-977-6500
Utility Billing 303-538-7370
Volunteer Hotline 720-977-5760
Voter Registration 303-538-7230
Water Quality 303-255-7770

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A special THANKS to all city Departments and Divisions for their contribution to the Thornton City Voice newspaper.

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.

