THORNTON
CITY VOICE NEWSPAPER

November-December 2026

ThorntonCO.gov

Facebook @ThorntonColorado
X @CityofThornton
Nextdoor search Thornton
Instagram/Threads @CityofThornton
YouTube @ThorntonCO
Bluesky @ThorntonCO.gov

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

Election Day is November 3.
For ballot information see page 2.

Upcoming Meetings AND EVENTS

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

November 10

December 1 **December 15**

Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed the following holidays.

November 11 - Veterans Day

November 26-27 Thanksgiving

December 25 - Christmas Day

January 1 - New Years Day

Prsrt Std
US Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 331

THORNTON
9500 Civic Center Dr.
Thornton CO 80229

Proposed utility rate changes would help keep Thornton's systems reliable

Thornton is proposing utility rate increases in 2027 to help maintain water, sewer and stormwater systems that residents rely on every day. The adjustments are designed to cover rising operating and infrastructure costs while keeping services reliable and limiting the impact on customers. Trash and recycling services will not increase in the current proposal.

What this means for utility customers

For a typical single-family residential customer, the proposed changes would increase the average monthly utility bill by about $3.16 in winter, and $5.23 in the summer when water use is typically higher.

There are no proposed increases to trash and recycling services. In fact Thornton trash customers will see their overall service cost decrease in 2027 thanks to a new State program, the Colorado's Extended Producer Responsibility program. This program provides reimbursements for eligible recycling costs. Thornton plans to return those funds to Thornton trash customers through an estimated $5 monthly bill credit.

Bringing this all together, for Thornton utility customers with water, sewer, stormwater and trash services on their bill, the estimated trash service monthly credit could offset the proposed increases and in some cases even decrease the average total utility bill by an estimated $1.84 per month in winter and increase by only about 23 cents in summer.

Rates keep essential systems working

Water and wastewater rates pay for the daily operation and maintenance of Thornton's complex water and wastewater systems, as well as the ongoing repair and replacement of aging infrastructure. While water usage has decreased in 2026 due to citywide drought response efforts and finding leaks with advanced meter data, maintenance needs and infrastructure updates, to maintain water quality and reliability, have remained steady.

The proposed water rate increase would support ongoing improvements to support Thornton Water customers now and into the future. Continued investments in these systems can prevent larger, more expensive problems and service disruptions down the road. For examples of water projects funded by utility rates, visit **thorntonwater.com/water-at-work** and learn about projects like the Thornton Water Treatment Plant PFAS treatment project, the 5-million gallon water storage tank construction and many more water, sewer and stormwater improvement projects.

Connection fees paid by new development will also increase to ensure existing customers are not paying for infrastructure needed to serve new development.

A measured approach to rates

Thornton reviews utility rates with an eye toward balancing affordability with the long-term financial health of each utility fund. Before proposing an increase, the city considers operational efficiencies, cost controls and other options. Thornton's proposed water, sewer and stormwater rates will continue to remain competitive with many Front Range communities.

A 2026 comparison of 15 water communities found Thornton's current combined water, sewer and stormwater rate among the lower rates surveyed. The new 2027 proposed rate would still remain lower than many communities in comparison.

Thornton offers programs to help customers manage utility costs, including utility bill assistance, water-efficiency rebates and free services, and the WaterSmart water usage portal.

City Council is expected to consider the proposed water, sewer and stormwater rates and fees as part of the 2027 budget adoption process October 27. If approved, the new rates would take effect January 1, 2027.

The proposed increases are ultimately about keeping essential services reliable today while making responsible investments to ensure Thornton's utility systems remain strong and sustainable now and into the future.

For more information, visit **goCOT.net/billing**.

Avg Monthly Winter Single-Family Residential

	Current	Proposed	Change
Water	$40.69	$42.16	$1.46
Sewer	24.46	25.83	1.37
Trash	19.25	19.25	0.00
Stormwater	5.48	5.81	0.33
TOTAL	**$89.88**	**$93.05**	**$3.16**

Avg Monthly Summer Single-Family Residential

	Current	Proposed	Change
Water	$98.19	$101.73	$3.53
Sewer	24.46	25.83	1.37
Trash	19.25	19.25	0.00
Stormwater	5.48	5.81	0.33
TOTAL	**$147.39**	**$152.62**	**$5.23**

Thornton voters will consider ballot question 2A

Information provided by the Thornton City Clerk's Office

Thornton voters will consider one ballot question from the City in the upcoming November 3, 2026, election. Referred by City Council, the question asks whether the City Charter should be amended to require that any Council member, including the Mayor, be deemed to have resigned and vacated their elected position upon "formally declaring candidacy" for any elected office other than Thornton City Council.

"Formally declaring candidacy" includes filing official paperwork, such as a candidate affidavit, nominating petition or other official candidacy document required by law. Council's stated purpose of the ballot question is to prevent conflicts and competing commitments that may arise from holding office on the Council while campaigning for another elected office.

If approved by voters, a "resign-to-run" vacancy would have to be filled by a City-conducted special election if the vacancy occurs with more than a year remaining in the council member's term and more than 90 days before a regular municipal election. The estimated cost of a special election to fill a vacant Ward seat is $75,000-$80,000, while a citywide special election to fill a vacant Mayoral seat is estimated to cost around $300,000.

Your vote counts: Thornton's Regular Municipal Election is Tuesday, November 3

Information provided by the Thornton City Clerk's Office

The Coordinated Mail Ballot Election is Tuesday, November 3. Ballots were mailed to active registered voters in mid-October. If you don't receive a ballot but believe you're registered, contact the Adams County Election Office at **720-523-6500**.

Completed ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day. You can drop them off at the Adams County Election Office, Thornton City Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 9500 Civic Center Drive, or at any official drop-off location listed with your ballot instructions or at **adamscountycoelections.gov**. For election results, visit **goCOT.net/elections**.

If you are not registered to vote, you can register up to eight days before Election Day by going online at **govotecolorado.com**, and if you miss that deadline, you may register in-person at a voter service and polling center in your county through Election Day, including at the Thornton City Clerk's office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at any Adams County Clerk and Recorder's office, or at a state driver's license office.

Information about the upcoming Adams County election is available at **adamsvotes.com**.

Thank you, Thornton Water customers for committing to conservation

Information provided by Thornton Water

This year brought challenging drought conditions to our city, but Thornton Water customers committed to conserving water and showed that small actions can add up to big results. By watering lawns only two days per week, fixing leaks, and using water wisely outdoors, our community met the city's 10% outdoor water demand reduction goal, helping preserve our precious water supply. We couldn't have done it without you and appreciate everyone doing their part to help us navigate the drought conditions this year.

As snowpack and future stream flows continue to be unpredictable, and our storage reservoirs remain below average levels, we encourage you to continue to incorporate water-saving measures into your day-to-day life. Upgrade appliances like toilets, shower heads, dishwashers, and washing machines to water efficient models; find and fix leaks quickly with Thornton's WaterSmart portal at **Thornton.WaterSmart.com**; and plan for a drought tolerant landscape transformation next spring. Information about rebates and free services is available at **ThorntonWater.com**.

For now, Stage 1 will continue, conditions will be monitored, and we will be highly focused on winter snowpack and water storage levels. Thank you for continuing to do your part to conserve water and help our community weather the drought. As of August 2026, customers had decreased water consumption from 2025 by 537 million gallons of water during a much hotter and drier summer. Every gallon saved strengthens our community's resilience for the future.



To learn more about current drought conditions and water conservation resources, visit **ThorntonWater.com/drought** or contact us at **Water@ThorntonWater.com** or **720-977-6600**.

Thornton updates animal regulations

Information provided by goCOT.net

Thornton City Council approved several changes to City Code related to animals in Thornton. One change prohibits feeding wild animals within city limits, except for passerine birds, such as perching birds and songbirds. The change follows safe human-wildlife coexistence practices recommended by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.



Other changes include:

Pet stores and breeders

- Pet stores can no longer sell cats or dogs at retail.
- Thornton Animal Control will work with the Thornton Legal team and City Clerk's Office to explore a licensing process for private breeders.

Helping lost pets get home

- Animals found running loose in Thornton will be required to have a microchip containing owner information. A licensed veterinarian or shelter must implant the microchip, and the information must be registered with the appropriate microchip company.
- The change is intended to help lost pets be identified and returned to their owners before they need to be taken to a shelter. Similar approaches in other cities have increased the number of stray animals returned home before impoundment. The change was requested by Riverdale Animal Shelter as a way to help return animals to their owners.

Humane tethering

The Code now includes guidelines for safe and humane tethering of animals. Tethering is not prohibited, but it will be unlawful when:

- The tether or restraint is not designed for or properly fitted to the animal.
- The animal is at an unreasonable risk of becoming entangled.
- The animal cannot reach adequate shelter, food or water.
- The animal could be injured, strangled or otherwise caused to suffer or become distressed.
- The animal is tethered for more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period or between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., unless the tethering lasts 15 minutes or less and the dog is not left unattended.

Planning for Future N Line Station Areas continues into 2027

Information provided by Thornton City Development

Thornton is planning for the future of two areas that will eventually be home to N Line commuter rail stations. The city is creating Station Area Master Plans, or STAMPs, to guide transit-oriented development around future stations near York Street and 144th Avenue, and Colorado Boulevard and Colorado Highway 7. The stations will complete the N Line rail connection from Downtown Denver to north Thornton.

The plans will guide future development within approximately one mile of each station, known as the "station area," with a focus on walkable neighborhoods that bring together housing, jobs, businesses and open space.

Work on the STAMPs began in early 2026, and included engagement with community stakeholders, stakeholder interviews, and two community open houses where residents provided feedback.

The feedback will help develop land use concepts and will be presented to the community and City Council in early 2027. The next community meeting is anticipated in February or March 2027. Visit **goCOT.net/StationAreaPlans** for current information about upcoming engagement opportunities, or email **longrange.planning@ThorntonCO.gov** with questions and comments.

Mayor's Food and Sock Drive – November 1-30

Information provided by Thornton Community Connections

Donations of non-perishable holiday food items and new socks benefit local food banks and individuals experiencing homelessness. Drop off donations during regular business hours at these locations:

- Trail Winds Recreation Center, 13495 Holly St.
- Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center, 11151 Colorado Blvd.
- Community Connections, 9471 Dorothy Blvd.
- Community Center, 2211 Eppinger Blvd.
- Thornton Active Adult Center, 11181 Colorado Blvd.
- Thornton Fire Station #1 - 2300 Thornton Pkwy., Station #4 – 1400 E. 128th Ave., Station #5 - 14051 Colorado Blvd.

For more information, visit **goCOT.net/connections** or contact Community Connections at **720-977-5800** or **Connections@ThorntonCO.gov**.





Get help applying for public benefits

Information provided by Thornton Community Connections

If you need help applying for public benefits or have questions about available programs, Community Connections is one of the Adams County Human Services Outreach Sites. They offer assistance with programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, Medicaid and cash assistance.

Assistance is available from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, contact Community Connections at **720-977-5800** or **Connections@ThorntonCO.gov**.

Make the holidays brighter with Pedey's Presents

Information provided by the Thornton Police Department

Help bring a little extra holiday magic to local children and families. who may otherwise go without, through Pedey's Presents, the Thornton Police Department's annual holiday gift-giving program. Residents, businesses, community organizations and volunteers make the program possible by giving their time, gifts and donations.

Drop off new-with-tags clothing and toys for children and teens of all ages at District 1, 9551 Civic Center Drive, or District 2, 13150 Quebec Street.



Monetary donations help purchase gifts based on the ages and needs of children nominated for the program and can be made at **thorntonpd.org/christmas-toy-drive**.

New books for children of all ages and reading levels are welcome and will be included with their holiday gifts. Every gift, book and donation helps make the season merrier for children in our community.

Learn more at **ThorntonPD.org** or contact Officer Kimberly Twinem at **720-977-5585**.

Thornton City Council

goCOT.net/council



Mayor

Jan Kulmann
303-538-7531 - City
Jan.Kulmann@ThorntonCO.gov





Ward 1

Cherish Salazar
303-538-7534 - City
303-521-2586 - Cell
Cherish.Salazar@ThorntonCO.gov

Justin Martinez
303-538-7537 - City
720-880-8145 - Cell
Justin.Martinez@ThorntonCO.gov





Ward 2

Roberta Ayala
Mayor Pro Tem
303-538-7536 - City
720-446-9082 - Cell
Roberta.Ayala@ThorntonCO.gov

John Alge
303-538-7535 - City
720-468-7717 - Cell
John.Alge@ThorntonCO.gov





Ward 3

David Acunto
303-538-7532 - City
720-295-9850 - Cell
David.Acunto@ThorntonCO.gov

Devin Byrd
303-538-7533 - City
720-831-7010 - Cell
Devin.Byrd@ThorntonCO.gov





Ward 4

Chris Russell
303-538-7530 - City
720-400-6278 - Cell
Chris.Russell@ThorntonCO.gov

Drew Morris
303-538-7201 - City
720-765-6020 - Cell
Drew.Morris@ThorntonCO.gov

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 contact Community Connections at **720-977-5800** or **Connections@ThorntonCO.gov**.

Tackle yard projects now with CodeCAP

Information provided by Thornton Community Connections

If you have a dying or hazardous tree, old or broken items that need to be removed, accumulated debris or a fence that is leaning, broken or falling, CodeCAP may be able to help. The program assists income-eligible Thornton homeowners with fixing or mitigating code violations in their yards. Learn more at **goCOT.net/housing** or contact Mayra Ramirez at **Mayra.Ramirez@ThorntonCO.gov** or **720-977-5818**.

You may qualify for Thornton tax rebates

Information provided by Thornton Community Connections

Thornton residents who lived within the city limits for the entire previous calendar year may qualify for property and food sales tax rebates. Funding is limited, and applications are approved on a first-come, first-served basis, so residents are encouraged to apply early.

For more information on qualifications or to apply, visit **goCOT.net/assistanceapp** or contact Community Connections at **720-977-5815**.

Help keep Thornton sidewalks safe this winter

Information provided by Thornton Code Compliance

When snow arrives, property owners can help keep Thornton's sidewalks safe and accessible by clearing snow and ice within 24 hours after a snowfall ends. Keeping sidewalks clear helps pedestrians, including children walking to school, seniors and people using mobility devices, to safely get where they need to go.

Property owners can avoid a minimum $150 fine by planning ahead, monitoring the forecast and arranging for snow removal promptly after a storm.

For questions about sidewalk maintenance or to report an unshoveled sidewalk, contact Code Compliance at **303-538-7517** or **code@ThorntonCO.gov**.

Make a difference this winter: volunteer to be a Snowbuster

Information provided by goCOT.net/Volunteer

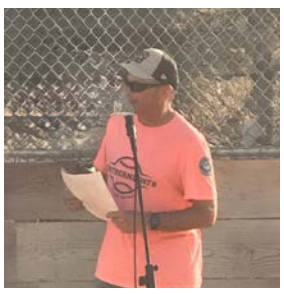
Volunteer for Thornton's Snowbusters program and help a senior by clearing snow from public walkways and driveways this winter.

Volunteers are matched with a qualified 62+ senior resident who cannot otherwise arrange for or afford snow removal. Sign up today by calling **303-255-7831** or visit **goCOT.net/volunteer**.



Volunteer spotlight: Helping provide Little League access drives Dave Kulmann's volunteer spirit

Information provided by Thornton Community Connections



Dave Kulmann is a hands-on volunteer whose behind-the-scenes leadership helped keep youth baseball programs running smoothly in Thornton for years.

Active with the Northern Lights baseball league from 2022 until the Spring of 2026, Kulmann oversaw everything from registration, schedules, field access and affordable uniforms and equipment, to mentoring volunteer coaches and assisting families with scholarships. He helped create payment plans and fulfilled gear needs so any child who wants to play could participate. Mr. Kulmann regularly spent evenings and weekends on field maintenance, game logistics and umpiring when needed, and coordinated with city staff and other leagues to share fields and avoid conflicts.

Participation has grown to more than 500 players, more than double since he became involved. Kulmann volunteers out of a love for baseball and a belief all Thornton kids should have access to the sport and its lessons.

For more information about volunteering, visit **goCOT.net/volunteer**.



Thanksgiving
BURN B4 BIRD

Thursday, November 26 I 8:30 - 10 a.m.
Trail Winds Recreation Center, 13495 Holly St.

Burn those Thanksgiving calories before you consume them at a **FREE** large-group fitness event featuring multiple instructors and formats. Bring a can of food to donate to a local food bank. Register today at goCOT.net/fit.

THORNTON PARKS AND RECREATION

Thornton trash customers to start seeing a monthly recycling credit on their utility bills

Information provided by Thornton Environmental Services

Colorado's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program represents a significant opportunity for Thornton to enhance recycling services while reducing the financial burden on its customers. Under the new law, the companies that manufacture packaging and paper products, not local taxpayers, will fund the collection, transportation, processing, and recycling of these materials. Thornton will be eligible to receive reimbursement for many of the costs associated with providing residential curbside recycling service.

As a result of this new funding, Thornton trash customers will soon begin seeing a monthly recycling credit on their utility bills. This credit reflects the City's reimbursement through the EPR program and helps return a portion of the recycling costs directly to customers.



Overall, the EPR program shifts the cost of recycling from local governments and ratepayers to the producers of packaging and paper products. For Thornton, this means a more financially sustainable recycling program, greater opportunities to invest in education and outreach, and continued progress toward the City's waste diversion goals without placing the full cost on its customers.

To receive more information on how you can sign up for Thornton's trash/recycling service, email your address and request to **environmentalservices@ThorntonCO.gov**.

Quilts of Valor honors Thornton-area veterans

Information provided by Thornton Active Adult Center



Recently, the Quilts of Valor Foundation's Windsor Gardens Chapter presented homemade quilts to 13 veterans at the Thornton Active Adult Center. The presentation is a partnership between the Thornton Area 55+ Organization, Quilts of Valor Foundation and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Since 2025, the organizations have worked together to host seven awards ceremonies and present 80 veterans with Quilts of Valor. Learn more at **QOVF.org**.

Outdoor adventures take active adults to new heights



The Thornton Active Adult Center wrapped up its second summer of the Outdoor Adventure Series, giving residents opportunities to step outside their comfort zones and experience the outdoors in new ways.

This summer, participants soared to new heights on a hot air balloon ride, walked among the clouds atop Pikes Peak and Mount Blue Sky, tackled tough terrain on a 4x4 tour in Estes and tried their hand at fly fishing.

For residents willing to try something new, challenge their fears and push their limits, the Active Adult Center prides itself on providing opportunities to do just that. More adventure opportunities are coming in spring and summer 2027. Keep an eye on **goCOT.net/aac** for details.

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.

Landfill Day – November 7, 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.

Fall Leaf Disposal Options - Saturday, November 14, 8 a.m.–noon, Leaves may be dropped off in the compost bin at the Infrastructure Maintenance Center (IMC), 12450 Washington St. Be prepared to empty plastic bags on site. Proof of residency required.

City trash customers may continue to place their bagged leaves at the curb on their regular trash pickup day through November 20. Fill black trash containers first. Bags filled with trash or other debris will not be collected. Restrictions apply.

NO Delay November 11 - NO DELAY in collection service the week of November 11. Please place containers at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular pickup day.

Thanksgiving Holiday Delay - City collection service will be on a one-day delay November 26 and 27. If your normal trash/recycle pickup day is Thursday, November 26, it will be collected on Friday, November 27. If your normal trash/recycle pickup day is Friday, November 27, it will be collected on Saturday, November 28.

No Cooking Oil - The city is no longer allowed to accept used cooking oil for drop-off. Please contact Veolia at 303-526-8155 for more information on how to properly dispose of cooking oil and other household hazardous waste.

Christmas and New Year Holiday Delays - Trash/Recycling collection service will be on a one-day delay Friday, December 25. Collection service will also be on a one-day delay Friday, January 1, 2027.

Special Christmas Wrap Collection - December 26-31. You may place flattened holiday boxes and bagged wrapping paper at the curb for collection on your trash day. Please use black trash containers first.

Christmas Tree Curbside Pick Up - City trash/recycle customers may place their natural Christmas trees at the curb for collection on their regular trash collection day from December 28–January 8. Please remove all ornaments and lights and do not wrap the trees in plastic.

Christmas Tree Recycle Drop Off - On Saturday, January 9, from 8 a.m. to noon, Thornton residents may bring their natural Christmas trees to the Infrastructure Maintenance Center, 12450 Washington St., for recycling. Proof of residency is required. Restrictions and limitations apply.

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.



Check your flood risk and insurance coverage before the next storm

Information provided by Thornton Infrastructure

More than half of Colorado's flood damage claims come from properties outside the FEMA 100-year floodplain, and most homeowners and renters' insurance does not cover flood damage.

Thornton has seven major drainageways, and about 50 buildings are in FEMA-regulated floodplain areas. Another 50 buildings are in other identified flood hazard areas. But you don't have to live in a mapped floodplain to experience flooding. Heavy rain can cause flooding in warmer months, and in winter, melting snow can cause flooding.

Flood insurance is required for buildings in a FEMA-mapped floodplain if they have a federally backed loan. Thornton's Class 5 rating in FEMA's Community Rating System gives property owners a 25% discount on flood insurance premiums. Visit **floodsmart.gov** or contact Thornton Floodplain Administrator Rachelle Plas at **720-977-6210** for more information.

Explore life, death and memory through art

Information provided by ArtsThornton.com

Explore the universal connection between life and death through the traditional folk art of artist Cal Duran. Muertos: A Journey of Death and Life is on display through December 18 at the Thornton Arts & Culture Center (TACC), 9209 Dorothy Blvd. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and on second Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free. His free workshop is November 14.

For more information, visit **goCOT.net/ozgallery**.

Take a walk through 70 years of Thornton history

Information provided by ArtsThornton.com

The Thornton 70th Anniversary History Exhibit is on display through December 18 in the Thornton Arts & Culture Center Annex, 9211 Dorothy Blvd. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, visit **goCOT.net/ozgallery**.

Make a snowy keepsake to take home

Information provided by ArtsThornton.com

Get into the holiday spirit and create a festive snow person or winter pet to take home at the Make and Take Snow People and Pets workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, December 12, at the Thornton Arts & Culture Center (TACC), 9211 Dorothy Blvd. The family-friendly class is for ages five and older.

To register, visit **goCOT.net/registration**, call **720-977-5901** or register in person at Thornton recreation centers. For more information, visit **goCOT.net/artsacademy**.





SANTA'S CALLING

Give your child a little Christmas magic with a personal phone call from Santa and his elves before his journey to Thornton on Christmas Eve.

December 8-10 | 18 months-12 years old | Free

Register by Friday, November 27.

Scan for call times and registration information.

goCOT.net/santascalling

THORNTON PARKS AND RECREATION



Thornton takes a closer look at safer biking along Colorado Boulevard

Information provided by goCOT.net/transportation

Colorado Boulevard is one of Thornton's major north-south roadways, and the city is exploring ways to make it safer and more comfortable for people who bike.

Earlier this year, the City of Thornton launched a project to explore options for separated bicycle facilities along Colorado Boulevard from 88th Avenue to the E-470 interchange. The 8.25-mile corridor will be evaluated for potential improvements such as multiuse paths, cycle tracks and protected bike lanes.

Unlike traditional bike lanes, separated bicycle facilities provide physical separation between people biking and motor vehicle traffic. The goal is to create a safer, more connected bicycle route that can better serve people of all ages and abilities.

Safety is a key consideration. Much of Colorado Boulevard between 88th and 136th Avenues is included in Thornton's Vision Zero High-Injury and High-Risk Network, which identifies roadways with a high occurrence or risk of fatal and serious-injury crashes. Although on-street bike lanes already exist along portions of Colorado Boulevard, traffic volumes and vehicle speeds can create safety concerns which can prevent people from biking along the corridor.

Residents have also identified better bicycle connections as a community priority. During public outreach for Thornton's Transportation Mobility Master Plan, residents identified busy streets, disconnected trails, a lack of comfortable and connected bicycle facilities, and insufficient or poorly marked bike lanes as some of the biggest barriers to bicycling in the city. This project strives to remove these barriers by providing low stress bike facilities, opening opportunities to bike for those who would not feel comfortable otherwise.

Community input is an important part of the project. The city recently gathered feedback through online surveys and several in-person community outreach events, giving residents an opportunity to share their experiences, concerns and ideas for improving bicycling along Colorado Boulevard. This feedback will help inform the development and evaluation of potential improvements.

The project is grant funded and will evaluate where and how separated bicycle facilities could work along the corridor, as well as develop preliminary designs and an implementation plan for potential improvements.

For more information about the project, please visit **goCOT.net/ColoradoBikeLanes**.

Flood protection and new trail connection coming to Grange Hall Creek South Tributary

Information provided by goCOT.net/engineering

The City of Thornton and the Mile High Flood District are making improvements along the Grange Hall Creek South Tributary to reduce flooding, protect infrastructure, and improve walking and biking connections. The design team includes Muller Engineering and landscape architecture firm Valerian, with American West serving as the construction contractor.

The project will replace undersized culverts beneath Washington Street with two larger structures: one to carry normal creek flows and another to serve primarily as a pedestrian underpass while also carrying overflow during major storms. Additional work includes lowering utilities, improving stormwater detention, restoring eroded creek areas, and strengthening the embankment between Lambertson Lakes #1 and #2.

A new trail segment will pass beneath Washington Street, run behind the Lambertson Farms red barn, and connect to the existing Grange Hall Creek Trail. This connection will allow people walking and biking to cross beneath the street and improve access to Lambertson Farms open space.

Construction began in late 2026, starting with Washington Street improvements that provide the most immediate flood-reduction and safety benefits. Utility relocation and culvert installation are planned from late 2026 through 2027, followed by improvements to Lambertson Lakes in 2027. Trail construction, amenities, and site restoration will continue through 2027 as well.

Washington Street will remain partially open during construction, with a temporary bypass routing traffic around the work area. Information about any trail closures or detours will be shared as construction progresses. A project website, **grangehallimprovements.com**, is available with construction updates and information about traffic and trail impacts.

Together, these improvements will help reduce roadway flooding, address erosion, and create safer, more accessible walking and biking routes.







Fall leaf cleanup: protecting our stormwater system

Information provided by goCOT.net/engineering

Street sweeping is the first line of defense in keeping leaves and debris out of the stormwater system. The city's fall sweeping operations typically take place from mid-October through late November, depending on weather conditions and when leaves begin to fall. Regular sweeping removes leaves from roadways before they can be washed into storm drains by rain or snowmelt. This proactive maintenance helps prevent clogged inlets, restricted water flow, and localized flooding while reducing the amount of debris that reaches streams, ponds, and other waterways.

Residents also play an important role in protecting the city's stormwater infrastructure. Rather than blowing leaves into the street, homeowners are encouraged to mulch, compost, bag, or utilize designated yard waste collection programs. Keeping leaves out of roadways and gutters supports street sweeping operations and helps ensure stormwater systems function as intended. For questions about street sweeping or leaf collection efforts, please contact the Streets Division at **720-977-6464**.

Discovering and protecting Thornton's natural areas

Information provided by ThorntonParks.com

Understanding what lives in Thornton helps the city make informed decisions about protecting and preserving its natural areas. This fall, Thornton Parks and Open Space and the Butterfly Pavilion conducted a BioBlitz to document plants, animals, birds, and reptiles within a designated area. The effort provides a snapshot of Thornton's local biodiversity and ecological health, while helping guide future conservation and restoration efforts and identify natural resources that may need additional protection.









WINTERFEST 5K & FAMILY WALK

Saturday, December 12

Fun Run at 10:10 a.m. • 5K at 10:15 a.m.

Carpenter Park

108th Ave. & Colorado Blvd.

- Choose from the chip-timed 5K or experience the festive atmosphere in a shorter untimed fun run/Walk.
- Festive mug and coupon for a free beer from the beer garden included with registration.

Visit winter5k.com or call 720-977-5853 for more information and to register.

THORNTON PARKS AND RECREATION

Brothers Plumbing • Heating • Electric

Brothers presents

Thornton WinterFest

Friday, December 11 • 6:30-9 p.m.
Saturday, December 12 • 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday, December 13 • 5-9 p.m.

Carpenter Park Fields
108th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard

goCOT.net/WinterFest | 303-255-7800

T Fiber · Mickey's · renewal by Andersen · Lifetime Home Remodeling · THORNTON

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

Editorial Staff

Todd Barnes, 303-538-7279
Managing Editor/Communications Director

Lisa Wilson
Editor, Writer/Deputy Communications Director

Gina Lantz
Design/Digital & Print Media Specialist

Photographers: City Staff, GettyImages® and Thinkstockphotos®
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.