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Urban Coyote

There has been an increase in coyote activity throughout the Denver Metro area during the past couple of years. Here are some precautions to take:

Pets

- Keep pets on a leash when walking them.
- Always supervise your pet when outside, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Feed pets inside in an effort to keep pet food from attracting coyotes and other wildlife.
- Provide human supervision while outdoors, even in your own backyard.
- Do not allow pets (or children) to run loose in areas where there is coyote activity
- Keep pets in fenced areas or kennels; split rail fences and invisible fences will not keep your pet safe from predators. Pet kennels and runs should have a fully-enclosed roof.

Discouraging Coyotes near Homes

- Frighten coyotes with loud noises; use unnatural odors (such as ammonia) to clean trash cans.
- **REMOVE ALL FOOD ATTRACTANTS**, such as pet food, table scraps on compost piles, fallen fruit, and spilled seed beneath birdfeeders.
- Remove vegetation/brush that provides cover for coyotes; trim lower limbs of shrubs/conifer trees.
- Use yard lights with motion detectors, appearance of the sudden light can frighten coyotes.

DO NOT FEED Wildlife

Many urban coyote conflicts often center on feeding issues. When people feed wildlife, it doesn't take long to teach a wild animal to associate people with food. It is very difficult to convince a habituated coyote to return to wild ways.

Children

- Remind children not to approach or feed any wildlife.
- If children feel threatened by the presence of coyotes or other wildlife, they should stay in a group and walk slowly to an area where adults are present.
- Make sure your child understands that a coyote is a wild dog and should be treated with caution.

Help support safe coexistence between coyotes and people. Receive training on effective hazing and participate in reshaping the behavior of our local coyotes.

March 3rd at 9am
Bible Park (north parking lot)

March 11th at 6pm
Barnum Recreation Center (360 Hooker Street)

Denver Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and Denver Environmental Health, are actively engaged in finalizing its Coyote Management Plan. The plan will incorporate best management practices from around the country and utilize the most current scientific research.

The plan will include a full spectrum of management tools. With the assistance of CDOW, staff will continue to inform and educate the public. Special focus will be on those behaviors which have habituated coyotes, including feeding wild animals (either intentionally or unintentionally), enticing them, or ignoring them. Educational efforts will also continue on how citizens can protect their pets and the importance of consistent hazing practices to recondition coyotes to avoid humans. The plan will also detail the protocol to remove a nuisance animal(s) exhibiting behavior that threatens human safety.

Citizens are asked to please report any coyote incident/sighting to the Denver Parks and Recreation department to help them better track animal activities. Citizens may call either 303-455-0785 or report coyote activity online at www.denvergov.org/parksandrec.

Denver Digs Trees Street Tree Program – Application Due March 16th

The Park People are now accepting applications for its annual **Denver Digs Trees** street tree program. Denver residents who have room to add a street tree must submit a tree request by **March 16th**. Trees are just \$25.



The trees will be distributed on **Saturday, April 18th**. Tree request forms are available at www.theparkpeople.org, by calling 303-722-6262, or by sending an e-mail to info@theparkpeople.org.

The Park People will also hold an Earth Day Yard Tree Sale for those who would like to plant a tree on private property on Saturday, April 19th at Washington Park

Summer Youth Employment

The Denver Office of Economic Development Youth Services is recruiting youth ages 14 – 21 for summer jobs! There are two different programs available this year:

- **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** – This program is for Denver residents, and includes income restrictions. Applications are available on the Youth Services website <http://www.milehigh.com/employment/youthservices/SummerYouthEmployment>. Applications need to be returned to the Youth Services office, 1391 N. Speer Blvd, Suite 520. Applications will be accepted until March 20th or until all positions are filled.
- **Governor's Summer Job Hunt (GSJH)** – This program is for all Colorado youth and has no income restrictions. There are job fairs in March, including one on March 11th at the Colorado Convention Center. More information can be found at <http://www.milehigh.com/employment/youthservices/GSJH>

For questions or more information, please call Youth Services at 720-865-5700.

Watering in the Winter



Denver Water wants to remind customers that it's not time to water your lawn, but your trees could use a drink. Prolonged dry periods and high winds can dry trees and top soil, and watering your trees will help ensure their optimum health.

Denver Water has some tips to keep trees healthy during winter dry spells:

Apply water to the root area one to two times a month.

- Water slowly, applying water as wide as the tree's canopy or branches.
- Water efficiently, using a deep-root fork needle, soaker hose, soft spray wand.
- If you use a hand-held hose, don't leave the hose unattended, as water runoff can occur.
- Apply mulch a depth of three inches around the base of the trunk to help retain soil moisture during winter months.
- Water only when the temperature is above 40 degrees and there is no snow on the ground.
- Stressed trees are more vulnerable to disease and insect infestations. Make sure to watch trees for any unhealthy signs and consult a professional for remediation options.
- A healthy tree needs 10 gallons of water for every inch diameter of the trunk.

The care of trees this winter will save our shade for the future. For more specifics on tree watering, visit the conservation page at www.denverwater.org.

Fraud Alert: Furnace Scam

Fraudulent contractors and furnace salespersons often use scare tactics. They may insist that you buy a new furnace immediately due to leaking gas and the potential of a catastrophic explosion. They may tell you that the "heat exchanger" or "combustion chamber" is cracked or has a hole. Or they may simply say that your furnace is too small and should be replaced with a larger one. If a contractor says you need expensive work *immediately*, don't panic. Keep in mind the following tips:

- All heating contractors are **required to be licensed and to get a permit** from the Building Department before doing any major work. Ask for verification of a license and the permit. To verify if a contractor is licensed in Denver call 720-865-2770 or go to www.denvergov.org/contractor_licensing.
- Check out all contractors with the Better Business Bureau (303-758-2100) and your city Building Department **before** inviting a serviceperson into your home for an estimate or service.
- If you are told your furnace needs to be replaced, get a second opinion from a licensed contractor whom you have checked out with the BBB.
- Remember that once the old furnace has been removed, proof of its original condition is impossible to verify, making it difficult to recover your losses or to prosecute for fraud.
- **RESIST** if a salesperson gives you a high-pressured sales pitch, especially if you are solicited at your door or by phone by an unfamiliar contractor.

For assistance call the Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179

Burglary Prevention Tips: Windows

Windows are left unlocked and open at a much higher rate than doors. An open window, visible from the street or alley, may be the sole reason for your home being selected by a burglar. Ground floor windows are more susceptible to break-ins for obvious reasons. Upper floor windows become attractive if they can be accessed from a stairway, tree, fence, or by climbing on balconies. Windows have latches, not locks and therefore should have secondary blocking devices to prevent sliding them open from the outside. Inexpensive wooden dowels and sticks work well for horizontal sliding windows and through-the-frame pins work well for vertical sliding windows. For ventilation, block the window open no more than six inches and make sure you can't reach in from the outside and remove the blocking device or reach through and unlock the door.

- Secure all accessible windows with secondary blocking devices
- Block accessible windows open no more than 6 inches for ventilation
- Make sure someone cannot reach through an open window and unlock the door
- Make sure someone cannot reach inside the window and remove the blocking device
- Use anti-lift devices to prevent window from being lifted out
- Use crime prevention or alarm decals on ground accessible windows

If you are interested in setting up Neighborhood Watch in your own neighborhood, please contact one of the Community Resource Officers at Denver's District 3; Technician Cari Jimenez or Technician Tony Burkhardt at 720-913-1300.

The First Tee of Denver



Denver Parks and Recreation's **First Tee of Denver** program uses golf as a tool to educate kids academically, socially, and physically. Young people who become members of The First Tee of Denver enjoy a variety of opportunities to learn lessons on the golf course that translate to success off it, as well as life skills that can help them grow as individuals and prepare them for the future.

You can sign up for The First Tee of Denver program online starting **March 16th**. The programs will take place at City Park, Willis Case, and **Wellshire** golf courses, as well as at Aqua Golf, the brand new driving range and miniature golf course on Santa Fe and Florida. Classes run from **June 14th through July 26th**. Further details can be found at www.thefirstteeofdenver.com.

Employment is also available for adults through the instructor program, and for youth through the mentoring and caddie programs. The instructor program gives adults the ability to teach a group of youth specific golf and life skills. The mentor program gives older youth an opportunity to help the instructors implement the course materials and gives them valuable work experience. The caddie program allows youth to make money, earn scholarships, and gain job experience while giving them invaluable networking opportunities. Applications for all programs are now available and are due April 3rd. For more information on the mentor and instructor programs, contact Clint Eckstein at 303-295-4082 or via e-mail at clint@thefirstteeofdenver.com. For the caddie program, contact Blake Adkison at 303-295-4082 or via e-mail at Blake@thefirstteeofdenver.com.

March Calendar of Events

Children's Museum of Denver FREE Night

March 3rd from **4 pm- 8 pm-** 2121 Children's Museum Dr. Target sponsors a free night for playtime with special story times and more! 303-433-7444; www.cmdenver.org.

Denver Police Dept. Citizen Advisory Board Meeting

March 5th at **6pm**. District 3 Police Department (1625 S. University Blvd.) The objective is to form a partnership of communication where crime prevention and crime trends can be shared with the community and the community can report on quality of life issues. For any questions, please contact Tech Cari Jimenez at cari.jimenez@denvergov.org.

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield FREE DAY

March 6th- 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton. 303-973-3705; botanicgardens.org.

Live Green Electronics Recycling Event

March 7th- **7am to 12pm**. This event provides a rare opportunity for residents to responsibly recycle old electronic equipment for FREE. For more information and to find specific drop off locations visit www.9News.com and click on the Live Green section. If you'd like to volunteer at the event, please email Charlotte.Pitt@denvergov.org or call 720-865-6816.

Denver Art Museum FREE DAY

March 7th- 100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway. 720-865-5000; www.denverartmuseum.org.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 14th from **10am- 2pm-** Parade Route: South on Blake Street to 17th Street; turn west to Union Station; turn north on Wynkoop; and end behind Coors Field.

Denver Botanic Gardens FREE DAY

March 16th- 1005 York St., Denver. 720-865-3500; www.botanicgardens.org.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science FREE DAY

March 18th- 2001 Colorado Blvd. 303-322-7009; www.dmns.org.

Denver Center for the Performing Arts FREE DAY

August Wilson's Radio Golf

March 19th- Space Theatre at DCPA (1103 13th St.). No reservations; box office opens 2 hours before performance; one ticket per person; first-come first-served; no children under 6 years old. For more information on times, please call 303-893-4000 or visit www.denvercenter.org.

35th Annual Denver March PowWow

March 20th - Sunday, March 22nd-. \$7/Day; \$18/3 day; Free/children & 60+. Denver Coliseum (4600 Humboldt Street). For more information call 303-934-8045 or visit www.denvermarchpowwow.org.

Denver Center for the Performing Arts FREE DAY

A Prayer for Owen Meany

March 26th- Stage Theatre at DCPA (1103 13th St.). No reservations; box office opens 2 hours before performance; one ticket per person; first-come first-served; no children under 6 years old. For more information on times, please call 303-893-4000 or visit www.denvercenter.org.

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