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Westminster Water Rates are Increasing

On Oct. 8, Westminster City Council approved an increase in water and sewer rates and tap fees for 2019 and 2020 to fund critical needs in our water and sewer system. The new rates and fees will become effective on Jan. 1, 2019, and Jan. 1, 2020.

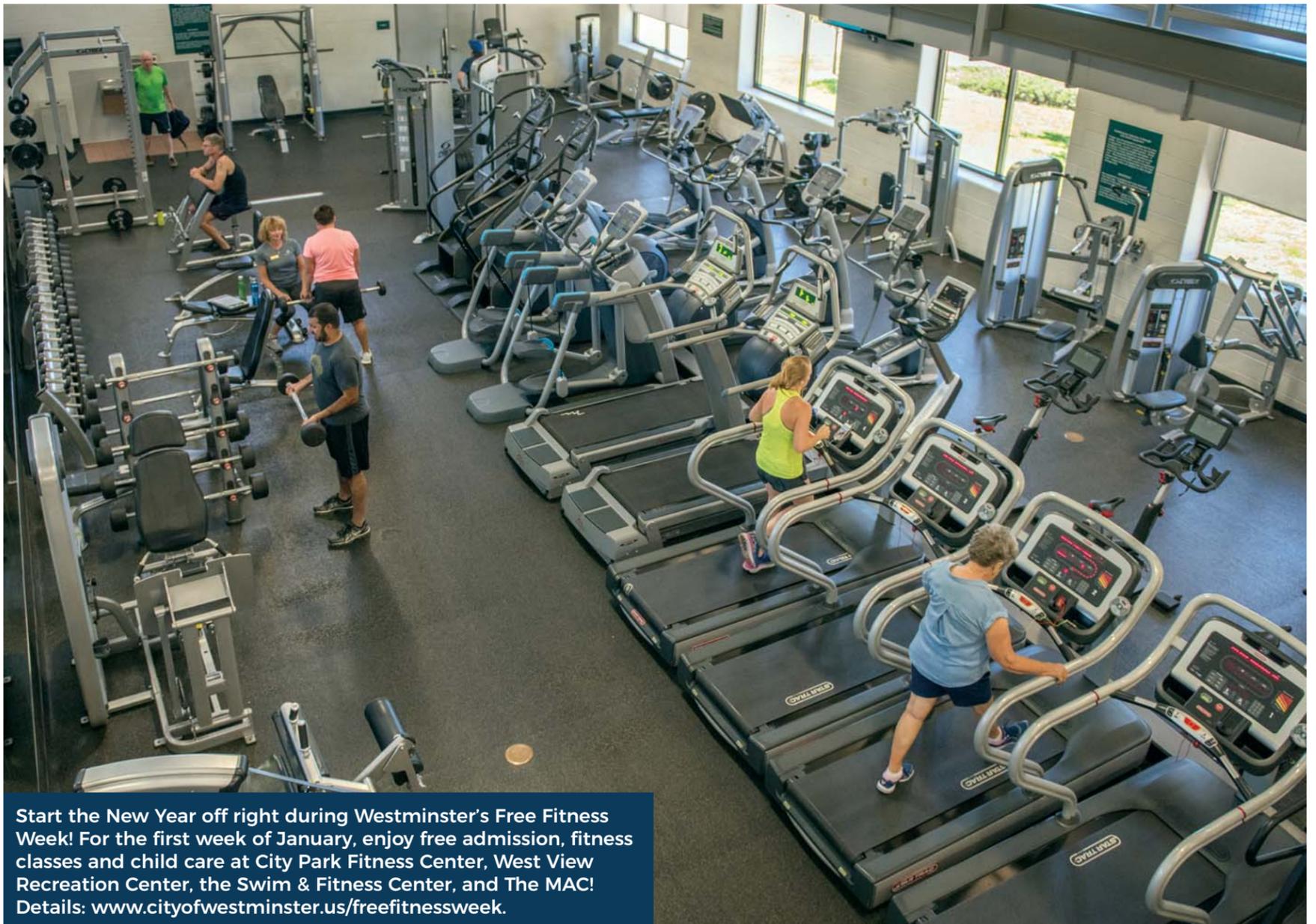
There is no set increase in water bills for a household. Rather, any bill increase will be tied to each individual household's water use.

The city has calculated the bill impact of these changes for the average residential customer in the city, such as a family of three

with a average-sized yard. For this customer, the monthly increase will be about \$11 per month for 2019 and another \$11.50 per month for 2020. To see how the rate increase will affect your individual water bill, visit the city's website and use the rate calculator:

www.cityofwestminster.us/rateincrease.

The increases are the result of a year-long study and reflect the demands of operating an aging \$4 billion infrastructure system that must continue to provide. Please see **WATER RATES** on page 3



Start the New Year off right during Westminster's Free Fitness Week! For the first week of January, enjoy free admission, fitness classes and child care at City Park Fitness Center, West View Recreation Center, the Swim & Fitness Center, and The MAC! Details: www.cityofwestminster.us/freefitnessweek.

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WESTMINSTER

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City Looks to the Future

As noted in the October/November "City Edition," the city is coordinating long-range plans and projects to create the framework for the future of Westminster. This effort is called Westminster Forward.

In mid-August, the city and consultant team hosted three public workshops to ask attendees their thoughts on:

1. the overall vision for Westminster;
2. identifying key issues and opportunities within the city;
3. identifying key opportunity areas for new development and redevelopment; and
4. selecting what development within each of these areas should look like.

Over 300 residents, business owners, city leaders and staff at-

tended these public meetings and/or gave feedback through an online questionnaire.

Two open-ended questions were posed. First, "What do we LOVE about Westminster?" and second, "What do we want to IMPROVE about Westminster?"

To the first question, frequent responses included parks/recreation, open space, bike/trail network, mountain views, Standley Lake, local shops, quality of life and sense of community.

To the second question, frequent responses included promote walkability, increase transit service, more bike paths and invest in local businesses.

A third question was structured to identify sub-areas of the city that are likely to develop. Please see **FUTURE** on page 3



HELP A NEIGHBOR THIS WINTER

Volunteer Westminster is looking for Snowbusters! Volunteers to remove snow from the public walkways of seniors and/or citizens with a disability during the snow season. Removal must be completed 24 hours after a snowfall. If you or your group (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church organization or service group) are interested in helping, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 303-658-2412 for an application. Youth groups under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Westminster Takes First Place in ‘Digital Cities’ Survey

For 16 years, the city has participated in the “Digital Cities” survey managed by the National League of Cities’ Center for Digital Government. This year was the first that Westminster has taken home the gold with a first place ranking. The city has ranked in the top ten since 2002.

City staff received the award at a reception in Los Angeles held during the National League of Cities’ annual City Summit.

In this survey, the Center for Digital Government looks for cities nationwide who align their technologies with city goals in order to improve the interactive experience for citizens and others doing business with the city; save tax dollars through newfound efficiencies; boost transparency, cybersecurity, and engagement;

and innovate through unique and exciting projects.

Winners for the award were selected based on a very extensive survey assessing ten broad characteristics of digital government. Judges looked at specific areas within each characteristics, including:

- Government transparency through open data
- Providing a citizen-centric government experience through technology
- Shared services and regional collaboration
- IT cybersecurity measures and initiatives
- Hiring and retaining of competent IT personnel
- Broadband and wireless infrastructure
- Efficiency and budget



- IT technology disaster recovery planning and preparedness
 - Innovation and new technologies, and
 - Best practices in IT operations.
- The Westminster Information Technology Strategic plan addresses all of the above areas. The Center for Digital Government is a national research and

advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. They conduct an annual comprehensive nationwide Digital Cities Survey to evaluate how well cities are doing in achieving and demonstrating the characteristics of a digital city.

Two Vacancies on City Council

With Councillor Shannon Bird’s election to the office of State Representative, House District 35, and Councillor Emma Pinter’s election to the office of Adams County Commissioner, District 3, two vacancies will exist on the Westminster City Council when the councillors

submit their resignations.

Per Section 5.7(a) of the Westminster City Charter, the City Council will have 30 days from their respective resignations to fill the vacancies.

The process will include soliciting applications from qualified and interested applicants and

appointing two of them to fill the unexpired terms.

Applications will open just after the new year and will be open for 10 days. Public interviews will take place soon after and the new councillors will be sworn in on Monday, Jan. 28, 2019.

Bird’s term continues until November 2019, and Pinter’s term continues until November 2021.

Check the city’s website for updated information: www.cityofwestminster.us.

<p>CITY FACILITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE</p> <p>Mondays, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed: Libraries, Westminster Sports Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closes at 3 p.m.: All recreation facilities, golf courses, Standley Lake gates (free lots remain open) • Open: City Hall, Municipal Court 	<p>Tuesday, Dec. 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed: All city facilities • Open: Standley Lake (free lots only) <p>Tuesday, Jan. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed: Libraries, City Park Recreation Center, The MAC, City Hall, 	<p>Municipal Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: Standley Lake (free lots only), golf courses (weather dependent) • Free Fitness Week kick-off: City Park Fitness Center open 8 a.m. to noon; West View Recreation Center open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Swim & 	<p>Fitness Center open noon to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, Jan. 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed: City Hall, Municipal Court • Open: All recreation centers, libraries, golf courses, Standley Lake
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WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

The Westminster City Council is elected at-large. Councillors represent all residents of the city, not specific wards or districts.

						
HERB ATCHISON Mayor 303-915-5625 hatchison@cityofwestminster.us Term Expires: Nov. 2021	MARIA DE CAMBRA Mayor Pro Tem 720-323-3664 mdecambra@cityofwestminster.us Term Expires: Nov. 2019	SHANNON BIRD Councillor 303-435-3480 sbird@cityofwestminster.us Term Expires: Nov. 2019	DAVID DEMOTT Councillor 303-881-2728 ddemott@cityofwestminster.us Term Expires: Nov. 2021	EMMA PINTER Councillor 720-239-2053 epinter@cityofwestminster.us Term Expires: Nov. 2021	ANITA SEITZ Councillor 303-817-5237 aseitz@cityofwestminster.us Term Expires: Nov. 2019	KATHRYN SKULLEY Councillor 720-255-5567 kskulley@cityofwestminster.us Term Expires: Nov. 2021

VISION: Westminster is the next urban center of the Colorado Front Range. It is a vibrant, inclusive, creative and well-connected city. People choose Westminster because it is a dynamic community with distinct neighborhoods, quality educational opportunities and a resilient local economy that includes: a spectrum of jobs; diverse, integrated housing; and shopping, cultural, entertainment and restaurant options. It embraces the outdoors and is one of the most sustainable cities in America.

- WESTMINSTER STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**
- > Visionary Leadership, Effective Governance and Proactive Regional Collaboration
 - > Vibrant, Inclusive and Engaged Community
 - > Beautiful, Desirable, Safe and Environmentally Responsible City
 - > Dynamic, Diverse Economy Financially Sustainable Government Providing Excellence in City Services
 - > Ease of Mobility

WESTMINSTER FORWARD

one community. one vision. one future.

FUTURE

Continued from page 1

or redevelop. Those areas include Historic Westminster, Downtown Westminster vicinity, Brookhill, Westmoor, Pillar of Fire, Church Ranch, Park 1200 vicinity, Park Centre and North I-25.

A series of images were presented to illustrate different building and land-use character types to populate these opportunity areas. Building types most identified by respondents included: housing above retail, loft housing, 2- to 4-story townhomes or apartments, main street retail with office and housing above, amenity- and entertainment-oriented commercial, and urban-format employment. While results are available for each area individually, these were the most selected images in the survey.

In mid-September, the city and consultant team hosted a design workshop for the public to gain additional feedback on



Residents provided their visual preferences for Westminster's future during the Harvest Festival.

building massing, heights, materials and site features such as landscaping, with the participants asked to identify examples that would be appropriate for future development in Westminster. A companion online questionnaire seeking input on design elements such as building materials, height, massing

and street frontages was completed by over 70 respondents. This work will inform updates to the city's Design Standards, with an eye toward creating standards unique to different contexts within the city.

This winter, the city and consultant team are working to further refine what we have heard

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED NOW

- Sign up to be notified via email about Westminster Forward updates and events (www.cityofwestminster.us/forward).

1. Stay tuned for a series of public events to be initiated at the beginning of 2019. A number of opportunities will be available to give feedback on the Comprehensive Plan and supporting plans.

2. Contact us at westminsterforward@cityofwestminster.us.

from the public meetings, and translate that into possible land use scenarios. In tandem with this overall mapping exercise, a policy framework is being drafted to align the vision and opportunities with the land use map. The first products of this effort are planned to be available in spring 2019 for public review.

Preparedness and YOYO

A harsh reality is that when communities experience a major emergency or disaster, we all need to be prepared for YOYO – "You are On Your Own."

First responders are going to be busy (and possibly overwhelmed) helping those who are most endangered. If you are prepared to take care of yourself, your family, your business and your pets for at least 72 hours, you will be safer and probably happier than if you had to dial 911. Of course you should absolutely dial 911 if you are in danger or need help. But let's face it, no one wants to be in the position of having to dial 911.

The best way to be ready for YOYO before or during a disaster is to know our community hazards, have a plan and have a kit. There are only two things you will be asked to do before and during a community disaster, shelter-in-place (if you are safe) or evacuate if you are not safe.

If you are signed up for notifications and have a plan and a kit, then you will be more likely able to take care of yourself and your loved ones. If you have discussed your plan and your kit with them beforehand, you will be even more prepared.

No one wants to be a victim! To learn more about preparedness, visit the city's Emergency Management webpage at www.cityofwestminster.us/emergencymanagement and follow the City of Westminster Emergency Management Facebook Page.



It's important to be prepared in case you are on your own (YOYO). Have a 72-hour emergency kit prepared at all times for you and your family.

WATER RATES

Continued from page 1

clean, safe and reliable water services to all our customers. New revenues will be spent on taking care of specific infrastructure that has already shown signs of failure or reached the end of its useful life, including maintaining and repairing pipes, pumps,

tanks and equipment; replacing the aging Semper Water Treatment Facility; and funding critical improvements to the Big Dry Creek sewer interceptor.

The city recognizes that any increase can have a large impact on people living on fixed incomes or those who struggle to pay even basic bills. If this is applicable to your household, visit

www.cityofwestminster.us/WaterBillAssistance or contact Program Manager Amanda Hernandez at 303-658-2392.

You can reduce the impact of these rate increases by conserving and becoming more efficient with your water use. The city provides several water conservation programs to our customers, including outdoor

irrigation audits and discounted water wise gardens: www.cityofwestminster.us/Residents/Water/Conservation.

Much more information about the rate increase and answers to frequently asked questions are available at www.cityofwestminster.com/rateincrease.

GOLF WESTMINSTER WINTER SPECIALS

Through Thursday, Feb. 28, Legacy Ridge Golf Course and Walnut Creek Golf Preserve offers \$30, 18-hole green fees Monday-Friday; \$35, 18-hole green fees Saturday and Sunday; and \$20 green fees all week long! Visit www.golfwestminster.com for information.



HOLIDAY LIGHTING CEREMONY

Saturday, Dec. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Westminster City Hall

Experience the magical wonderland of lights at the annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony at Westminster City Hall, complete with holiday music, hot chocolate, cookies and of course, a visit with Santa! Create new family traditions around the bonfire and on the hayride. The full-size sleigh and kid-size train are perfect settings for family photos. Dress warm – the event is mostly outside! Sponsored by NMAA/SCFD and Credit Union of Colorado.

DEC.

SANTA ON THE PLAZA

Saturdays, Dec. 8, 15 and 22, 5-7 p.m., Westminster City Hall

Visit with Santa and experience the magical wonderland of lights at Westminster City Hall!

ALTERNATIVE SWEETENERS

Monday, Dec. 10, 1:30-2:30 p.m., The MAC

If you are trying to cut down on your sugar intake, there are a variety of alternative sweeteners to choose from. Learn the pros and cons of these alternatives and see if they truly are a better choice. Register by Thursday, Dec. 6. Fee: residents \$11; non-residents \$13.

AROMATHERAPY PRESENTS THAT PAMPER

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m., The MAC

In this hands-on workshop, you'll use aromatic essential oils to create a perfume, milk bath, herbal sachet and bath oil. Register by Sunday, Dec. 9. Fee: residents \$36; non-residents \$38 (\$12 material fee payable to instructor).

AROMATHERAPY PRESENTS THAT PAMPER

Tuesday, Dec. 11



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Tuesday, Dec. 25-Sunday, Jan. 20, City Park Fitness Center

Residents may recycle their Christmas trees at the lower parking lot of City Park Fitness Center. This lot is self-serve, so the hours are flexible. Please remove ornaments and plastic bags before disposal. Boy Scout Troop 484 provides curbside pick-up on Saturday, Dec. 29, and Saturday, Jan. 5, as their annual fundraiser. Call 303-706-3389 to schedule a tree pick-up.

TREE LIMB RECYCLING

Second Saturday of the month, January-December, 8 a.m. to noon, 10001 Alkire St.

Westminster residents can turn tree limbs into useful mulch at this free event! All loads must be tied down or covered. Mulch is available while supply lasts. Please bring a driver's license or utility bill to verify Westminster residency. Note: Event is dependent upon the weather.

TAEKWON-DO FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH AND ADULTS

• Mondays and Wednesdays, Dec. 3-19, Jan. 7-30, 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m., West View Recreation Center
• Tuesdays and Thursdays, Dec. 4-20, Jan. 3-31, 6:30-7:30 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m., The MAC

These monthly evening classes help increase your fitness, flexibility and confidence levels and allow you to gain the ability to defend. Skills learned in class apply to other sports and everyday life. Fees vary month to month based on total number of classes that month. Ages 5-8 and 8-adult.

SANTA ON THE PLAZA

Saturdays, Dec. 8, 15 and 22



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Tuesday, Dec. 25-Sunday, Jan. 20



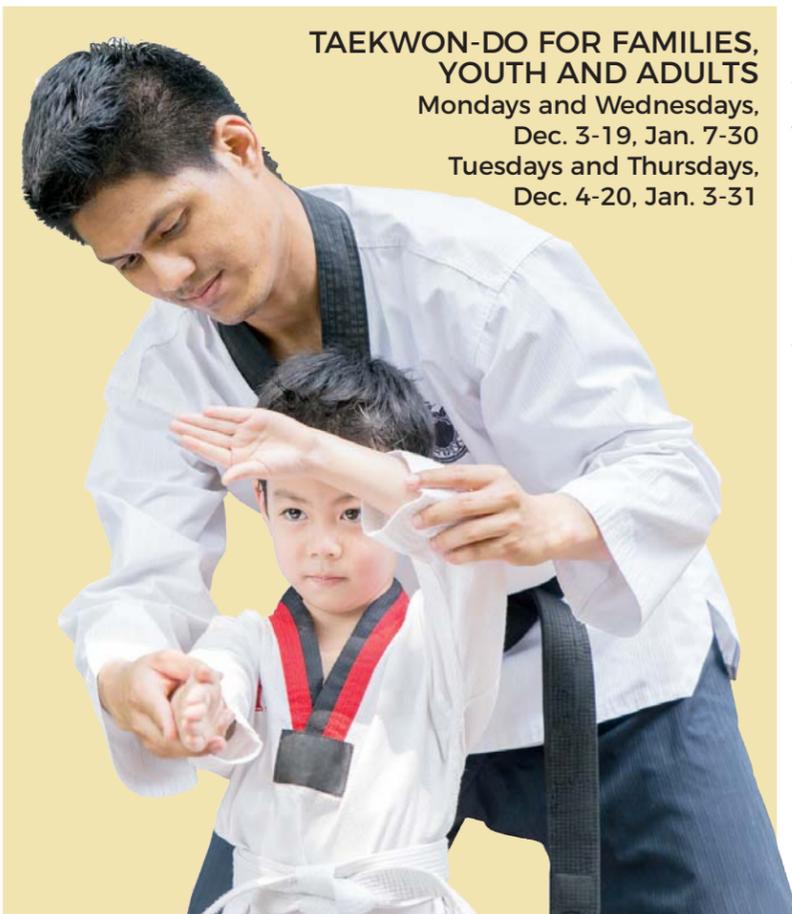
2018-19 PRESCHOOL - KINDER KIDS AND TINY TOTS OPENINGS

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, (through May 10); Tuesday and Thursday, (through May 9).

Two- and three-hour morning or afternoon classes. Call 303-658-2215 or 303-658-2222 for class times, days and fees. Register now for any remaining spots for the 2018-19 school year. This continuous school year program prepares your child for kindergarten while focusing on the "learning is fun" philosophy. Class emphasizes social, emotional and cognitive development along with teaching pre-kindergarten and creative skills. Age: 3-5.

TAEKWON-DO FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH AND ADULTS

Mondays and Wednesdays, Dec. 3-19, Jan. 7-30
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Dec. 4-20, Jan. 3-31



WINTER CAMP

Dec. 27, 28, Jan. 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8; 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.; City Park Recreation Center

Sign up and be worry free! We will entertain your child with field trips and programs that will have them coming home happy. Ages 6-13. \$35 per day for residents, \$45 per day for non-residents.

ADULT SPORTS



ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES: Tuesdays, Jan. 2-March 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., City Park Rec Center.
SENIOR COED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES: Wednesdays, Jan. 2-March 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., City Park Rec Center.

SENIOR WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES: Mondays, Jan. 7-March 11, 9 a.m. to noon, City Park Rec Center.
PICKLEBALL DOUBLES LEAGUES: Thursdays, Jan. 10-Feb. 28, West View Rec Center.

ADULT RACQUETBALL LEAGUES: Mondays and Thursdays, Jan. 14-March 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., City Park Rec Center. Men's, women's doubles and mixed leagues offered.

ADULT INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUES: Sundays-Thursdays, Jan.-March, Games start at 6:30 p.m., City Park Rec Center. Men's, women's and coed leagues offered.

JAN.

Children develop coordination, balance, flexibility and strength. The goal of this class is for each child to find their own pleasure through music and movement while developing motor skills. Ages 3-6. \$105 for residents. \$119 for non-residents.

YOGA FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

Sundays, Jan 20, 27 and Feb. 3



stoke the fire of transformation. Fee: \$20.

YOGA FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS

- Sunday, Jan. 20, 2-3:30 p.m., City Park Fitness Center
- Sunday, Jan. 27, 2-3:30 p.m., West View Recreation Center
- Sunday, Feb. 3, 2-3:30 p.m., City Park Fitness Center

Start at the beginning and learn alignment, tips and tricks, modifications and safety. Take one workshop or join all three. \$5 each session.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6-7 p.m., Irving Street Library

Know your rights on housing, health, education, human services and civil rights issues. Get brief overviews of civil rights. Questions encouraged. No registration required. Call 303-658-2313 for more information.

BEGINNING WATERCOLOR

Thursdays, Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Park Recreation Center

Learn about watercolor surfaces, mixing and controlling paint, various types of watercolor paint and brushes. \$15 supply fee due at class.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION PATRIOT'S TRUNK

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 1:30-2:30 p.m., The MAC

This interactive living history presentation explores reproduction items from the American Revolution. Lecture covers farmhouse chores, school work, crops and explains why one third of the people fought in the Revolutionary War. Fee: \$5.

MEET AT THE BARRE

Saturday, Jan. 5, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., City Park Fitness Center

Enjoy this barre fitness party with our barre instructors blending their expertise of a variety of genres including Pilates, yoga, ballet and muscular endurance strength training with classic barre workouts. A FREE 90-minute class with refreshments and prize drawings. No registration required.

DEVELOPING AN EXERCISE ROUTINE

- Sunday, Jan. 6, 10-11:30 a.m., City Park Recreation Center
- Saturday, Jan. 26, 10-11:30 a.m., City Park Recreation Center

Discover how to use exercise principles to create a unique training program that fits your lifestyle. Topics include exercise modes, energy systems, exercise variety, nutritional timing and consistency. Fee: \$5.

BALLET

Tuesdays, Jan. 8-April 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. or 4-5 p.m., City Park Recreation Center

Learn basic movements across the floor, at the barre, and center floor performances. Ages 3-6. \$105 for residents. \$119 for non-residents.

JOY OF MOTION

Tuesdays, Jan. 8-April 16, 9:45-10:30 a.m., City Park Recreation Center

BEGINNING ITALIAN FOR TRAVELERS

Wednesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 13, 5:30-7 p.m., The MAC

Acquire basic language skills for meeting and greeting, getting directions and transportation info, shopping and ordering in a restaurant. Resident \$75; non-resident \$80.

OUTRAGEOUS ROOT VEGETABLES

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 6-7:30 p.m., The MAC

Learn about the nutritional value and some unique methods of preparing root veggies of all types. Samples and recipes are provided. Resident \$14; non-resident \$16.

BETTER BRAIN, BETTER LIFE

Thursdays, Jan. 10-31, 9:30-10:30 a.m., The MAC

Build a stronger and quicker brain by participating in a variety of mind games designed to sharpen your mental machinery. Resident \$18; non-resident \$20.

BUILD BETTER BALANCE

Fridays, Jan. 11-25, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., The MAC

Reduce your risk of falling. Each week receive practical tips to prevent falls, and practice simple exercises designed to improve your strength, stability and balance.

JAZZ/HIP HOP

Saturdays, Jan. 12-April 20, 10:15-11:15 a.m., Westview Recreation Center

Learn fundamentals of jazz and hip hop in this introductory class. Ages 3-6. \$105 for residents. \$119 for non-residents.

RETRO THEATER

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 3-5 p.m., Irving Street Library

Watch retro movies from the 80s, 90s and 2000s. Snacks provided. All films rated G, PG or PG-13. Ages 12-18.

PODCAST CLUB

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2-3 p.m., College Hill Library

Discover and discuss fun new podcast episodes each month. Pizza provided. Ages 12-18.

FREE SAT PRACTICE TEST

Saturday, Jan. 19, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Irving Street Library

Take a free, full length, diagnostic practice test. After the test, receive a detailed score report. A Princeton Review expert helps you find a way to get the score you want. Ages 12-18.

GLASS FUSING WINTER SCENE

Saturday, Jan. 19, 1-4 p.m., City Park Recreation Center

Create an 8 inch by 8 inch winter scene using

fusible glass and glass elements. Project options include a food safe platter or window hanging. \$25 materials fee due at class.

SUPERTOTS SPORTS WITH SUPERTOTS SPORTS ACADEMY

Jan. 16-April 18, Westminster Sports Center

For more information and to register visit: www.supertotsports.com. Programs run 50 minutes and meet once a week for 4 weeks at a time. All programs are \$54 and include a T-shirt and an award.

BEGINNING SEWING

Saturdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 2, 2-5 p.m., City Park Recreation Center

Start with the basics: filling a bobbin, threading the machine, changing a needle, selecting stitches and machine maintenance. Learn basic mending skills such as hemming pants, repairing rips and pockets, and replacing zippers.

ASHTANGA YOGA INTENSIVE

Sunday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., City Park Fitness Center

Discover how substyles of the Ashtanga Yoga System can unlock the doors to a deeper personal practice. Trace the roots of Ashtanga, learn energetic locks, focal points and the importance of breathing to

FACILITY LOCATIONS/REGISTRATION

RECREATION

www.cityofwestminster.us/ParksRecreation

Register:

www.cityofwestminster.us/activityguides or call any recreation center

City Park Fitness Center
10475 Sheridan Blvd.
303-460-9691

City Park Recreation Center & City Park
10455 Sheridan Blvd.
303-460-9690

Countryside Outdoor Pool

10470 Oak St.
303-466-1738

Ice Centre at The Promenade

10710 Westminster Blvd.
303-469-2100

Legacy Ridge Golf Course
10801 Legacy Ridge Parkway
303-438-8997

The MAC

Programs to suit your active adult lifestyle. Ages 18 and older.
3295 W. 72nd Ave.
303-426-4310

Standley Lake Regional Park

100th Avenue and Simms Street
303-425-1097

Swim & Fitness Center

3290 W. 76th Ave.
303-427-2217

Walnut Creek Golf Preserve

10555 Westmoor Drive
303-469-2974

Westminster Sports Center

6051 W. 95th Ave.
303-658-2393

West View Recreation Center

10747 W. 108th Ave.
303-460-9530

LIBRARIES

Register:

<http://tinyurl.com/wplsignup>
www.westminsterlibrary.org

College Hill Library

3705 W. 112th Ave.
303-658-2603

Irving Street Library & Park

7392 Irving St.
303-658-2303

ADMIN

City Hall

4800 W. 92nd Ave.
303-658-2400

Westminster Public Safety Center

9110 Yates St.
303-658-2400

Emergency: 911

Ralston House

If a crime in Adams or Broomfield counties involves a child, it is likely that Ralston House has worked with investigators to interview the children involved.

Ralston House provides a safe space for children to tell their stories; an alternative to a police station that can be a sterile and intimidating environment for a child to be interviewed in.

Best practice indicates higher levels of child safety and decreased chance of re-traumatization when children are interviewed at a child advocacy center. The coordinated, collaborative delivery of services offered at Ralston House, a friendly, welcoming and home-like setting, makes a positive impact to the lives of these children.

In December, Ralston House opens its doors to a newly con-

structed 5,000-square-foot facility (2360 W. 112th Ave., Northglenn) that allows staff to simultaneously conduct three forensic interviews for children and families in crisis. With the addition of a medical examination room, families will be able to receive medical services, including a pediatric sex assault examination by a child abuse pediatrician in their own community.

If you need to contact Ralston House about their services or to be a part of this incredible facility that will provide services to vulnerable children in need, contact Ralston House at 720-898-6752 to learn how you can have a profound impact on a child and be a part of this community-supported building.

Visit www.RalstonHouse.org for more information on the Capitalization Campaign.



Ralston House opens their new facility in December providing additional services to vulnerable children in need.



Help Make the Season Brighter for Those in Need

The Westminster Fire Department is collecting items to distribute to several local charities this holiday season. New (preferred) or gently-used clothes and toys, and non-perishable food items may be dropped off at Westminster fire stations, recreation centers, libraries, City Hall and other city facilities; just look for the big green bins. Bins will be available for donations until close of business on Thursday, Dec. 13, then the donations will be collected and sorted for the Have a Heart Project, Jeffco Foster Care, Westminister FISH Food Bank and the Westminister Police Santa Cops program. Call 303-658-4500 for more information.

Learn About the Fire Department

Check out the Westminister Fire Department Citizen Academy! Classes are held on Thursdays, 6-10 p.m., Feb. 28 through May 23.

Learn about fire and medical response, plus emergency preparedness, water rescue, urban search and rescue, extrication and more. Participants get the chance to ride along with a fire crew, try on the gear and learn some practical tips to use at home.

Westminister residents are invited to participate in this free, 13-week course to learn about the wide range of services WFD provides as well as the logic behind the emergency services system. Each session covers an aspect of the fire department such as fire prevention, hazardous materials or fire extinguishers, and includes classroom time and hands-on activities. The course is geared to inform citizens about WFD operations as well as teach residents fire and life safety.

Applications are due Thursday, Feb. 21. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and are subject to a background



Apply to be in the Westminister Citizen's Fire Academy by Thursday, Feb. 21.

check. Please note that this course is simply to gain community knowledge; it's not a precursor to a career in fire or emergency services.

There is no fee for the course unless CPR certification is desired; CPR certification is \$25. The session is limited to 20 participants and preference is given to Westminister residents. Applica-

tions are considered in the order they are received. Registration forms are available at the Westminister Fire Department, 9110 Yates St., or at www.cityofwestminster.us/fire.

For more information, contact Public Education Officer Sherrie L. Guerrero at 303-658-4536 or sguerrero@cityofwestminster.us.



Be sure to put out your fireplace before leaving the house or going to bed.

Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

When the temperatures begin to drop in the winter months, it can greatly increase the risk of a house fire. Heating a home, although necessary, can lead to fire risks if you are not keeping safety in the forefront. Heating is the second leading cause of home fires (after cooking), peaking in the month of January during early evening hours between 5-9 p.m. Some of the top sources of heating fires are

caused by space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves.

Here are some tips to help keep you safer this winter:

- Keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet away from a space heater.
- If you are using a space heater, make sure that it has an automatic shut-off so that if it tips over, it shuts off.

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace that will prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.

- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.

- When using a fireplace or wood stove, always put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.

Gee Whiz, We Have a 3,000-Acre Farm!

Yes, the City of Westminster owns a farm. About 40 miles due east on 88th Street, on the other side of the airport, lies the city's Strasburg Natural Resources Farm. We purchased the 3,000-acre farm in the mid-90s to dispose of biosolids that are left over from the wastewater treatment process.

Biosolids are not poop! They are the dead bacteria and "bugs" that clean up wastewater at the Big Dry Creek Treatment Plant. These biosolids are non-toxic, rich in nitrogen, organic matter and other trace nutrients, and make excellent fertilizer for growing crops on the Eastern Plains of Colorado. Many other Front Range cities also own farms for this same purpose, like Greeley, Broomfield and Littleton, because it is much cheaper than paying a private entity to dispose of biosolids.

City employees drive 15 to 20 tanker trucks of biosolids per week from the Big Dry Creek Treatment Plant out to the Strasburg Farm. At the farm, the biosolids are transferred from a tanker truck into a special farm trailer that spreads the biosolids on the ground. Soil quality testing and GIS mapping deter-



Westminster's 3,000-acre farm disposes of biosolids that are left over from the wastewater treatment process.

mines the application rate of biosolids across the fields, so more fertilizer is applied where needed and less where it's not.

The city works with two independent farmers who are responsible for growing crops on the Strasburg Farm. Farmer Matt works about 500 acres of irrigated land and grows corn, triticale and rye. Matt uses his crops to feed a small herd of cattle on the farm and pays rent to the

city for use of the land. Farmer Greg works the remaining 2,500 acres without irrigation (often known as dryland farming) and grows wheat, milo and millet. Greg sells the grain on the open market under a profit-sharing agreement with the city.

The Strasburg Farm is one conclusion of Westminster's water story. Water that originally starts as snow high in the Rockies is diverted into Standley Lake

through ditches, piped into two water treatment plants, distributed out to homes and business across the city, collected in the sewer system, treated at the Big Dry Creek plant, and finally trucked out to the farm. It's an impressive journey for each molecule of water, and one that our city takes great pride in making sure happens so that each of our customers receive clean, safe, and reliable water services.

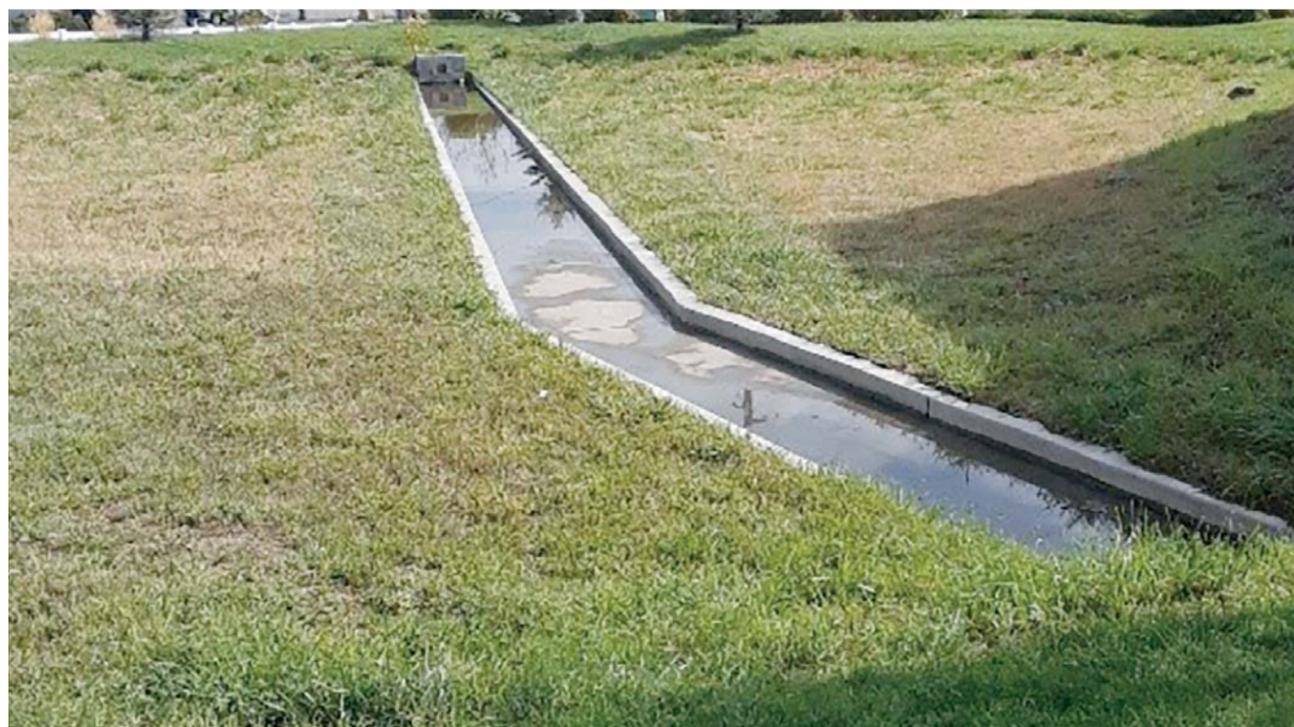
What is a Stormwater Detention Pond?

While taking a stroll around the neighborhood, one might wonder, "What is this open vegetated area with a concrete channel and concrete box structure in my community?" One might also notice that this area becomes inundated with water after rain events, taking days to drain and possibly causing unideal conditions such as soggy soils and habitat for mosquitoes.

This area is commonly known as a stormwater detention basin. These facilities are used to improve the quality of urban runoff from roads, parking lots, residential neighborhoods, commercial areas and industrial sites.

Along with water quality, these basins also reduce peak stormwater runoff rates by providing temporary storage during larger storm events to help protect from flooding events. In addition, the detention pond on your property may provide other benefits such as passive recreation and open space opportunities.

It is very important to understand that these facilities are designed to hold water after a storm event for up a maximum of 72 hours to ensure that sediment and other pollutants captured by urban runoff are treated before continuing downstream, eventually ending up in our waterways. However, in some cases these facilities could be holding water for more than 72 hours, creating noxious odors



Stormwater detention ponds are used to improve the quality of urban runoff from roads, parking lots, residential neighborhoods, commercial areas and industrial sites.

and breeding grounds for undesirable critters.

Without proper maintenance, these facilities do not function as they are designed and have a chance of eventually failing, releasing even more pollutants downstream and leaving properties at risk for flooding. It is important that you know who is responsible for maintaining these facilities.

Contrary to popular belief, the City of Westminster is only responsible for maintaining

around 20 percent of these facilities, most of which are located in city parks and open space. The rest of these facilities are owned and maintained by the property owner, being the residential Home Owners Association (HOA), private/commercial businesses or even special districts.

Maintenance will always be needed; if maintenance is not done, or not done frequently enough, or properly, a false sense of security exists for the pond's temporary storage and

pollutants removal capabilities during storm events.

If you see one of these facilities and believe there is maintenance needed, contact your local HOA, private business or local authority.

For more stormwater related information, please visit the city's stormwater webpage, www.cityofwestminster.us/stormwater.

Westminster Snow and Ice Control Policy

Snow & Ice Control Map

Westminster's goal during any snowstorm is to keep primary and secondary streets open and safe for motorists. In addition to primary and secondary streets, priorities are given to streets adjacent to hospitals, police, fire/rescue squad stations, schools, RTD bus routes and dangerous intersections, hills or curves on residential streets.

All remaining residential streets only receive service after the above priorities are attended to and snow accumulations are greater than 8 inches.

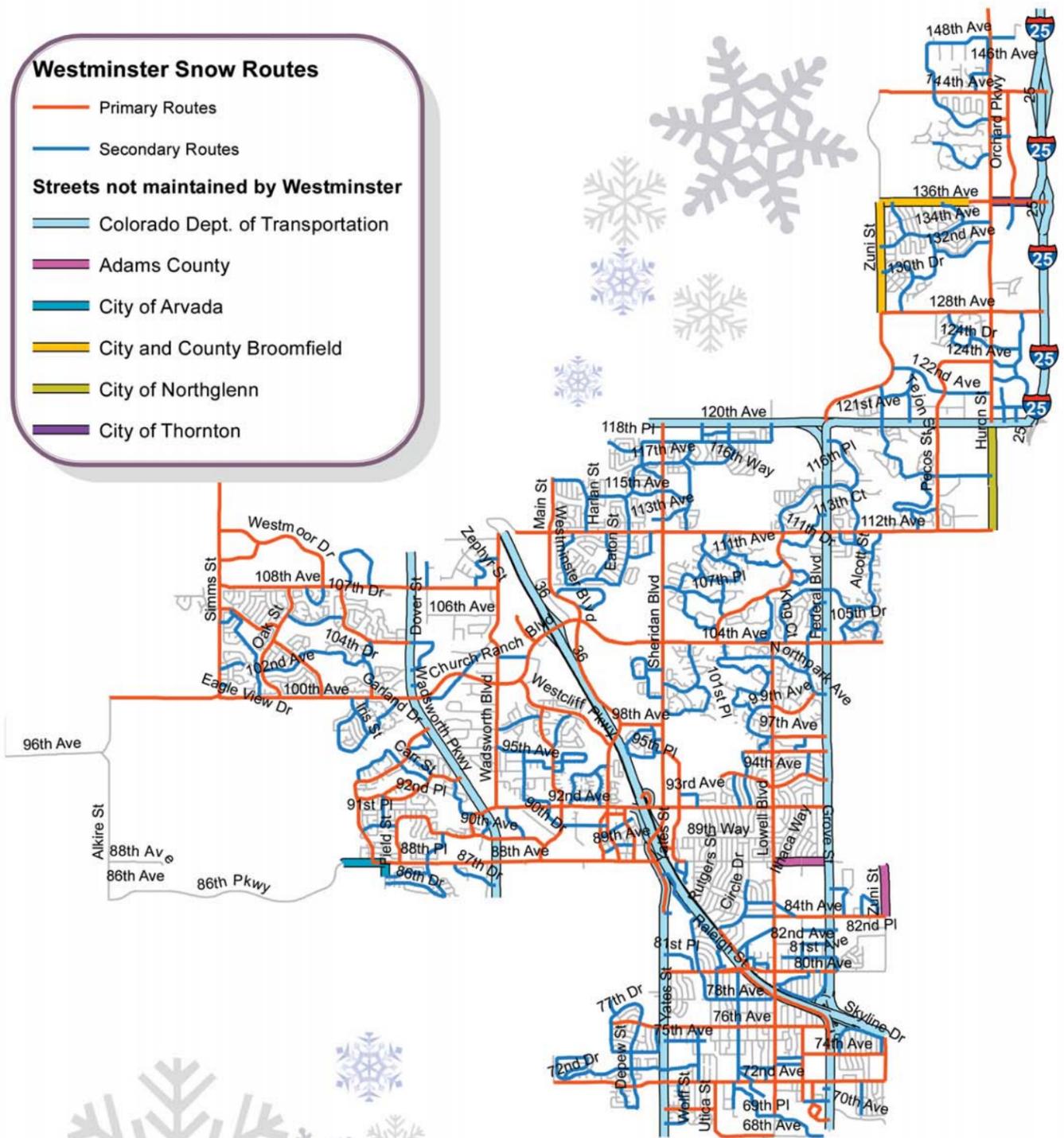
Please refer to the map for an outline of primary and secondary routes, as well as streets that are not maintained by the City of Westminster.

Westminster Snow Routes

- Primary Routes
- Secondary Routes

Streets not maintained by Westminster

- Colorado Dept. of Transportation
- Adams County
- City of Arvada
- City and County Broomfield
- City of Northglenn
- City of Thornton



PRIORITY 1

Primary Routes - All arterials and major collector streets considered to be the minimum network that must be kept open to provide a transportation system covering the major traffic volume and provide access to hospitals, police stations, fire stations and rescue squads.

PRIORITY 2

Secondary Routes - Collector streets and select residential streets providing access to emergency stations, schools and bus routes.

PRIORITY 3

Residential Areas - Dangerous intersections, hills and curves.

STORM CATEGORIES

Category 1 (One inch or less of snow resulting in icy conditions throughout the city) - All primary, secondary, hazardous stops, hills and emergency facilities are salted/sanded.

Category 2 (Two inches of snow resulting in slick, slushy conditions throughout the city) - Primary and secondary streets, plus hazardous stops, hills and all emergency facilities are salt/sanded and plowed.

Category 3 (Greater than 2 inches of snow with wind causing blizzard conditions) - All primaries are plowed, salted/sanded until the storm subsides, then secondary and residential streets affected by drifting snow are plowed and salted/sanded.

Category 4 (A major snow-storm greater than 8 inches of snow, possible closures due to drifting snow and blizzard conditions) - Concentration is given to primary routes and emergency facilities. Priorities to secondary routes and residential streets are plowed and salted/sanded as soon as possible thereafter. The acceptable level of service for residential roadways is to provide a navigable surface; the street may have snow or packed ice on it, but plowing and material application allows a vehicle to travel the street safely on at least one center lane. When plowing is required, barriers of snow across driveways are created. Opening of driveways are the responsibility of the property owner.

MAJOR SNOW EMERGENCY (CATEGORY 4) DECLARED

STAGE 1

Blizzard conditions - average duration 12-18 hours

- City Hall Emergency Coordination Center is opened.
- Municipal Service Center Street Operations Emergency Center (MSC EOC) is opened.
- Call Center at MSC EOC is staffed 24 hours a day until post storm operations are completed.
- Contractual assistance is deployed.
- Primary roadways and emergency facilities maintained.

STAGE 2

Snow/Wind ends - average duration 12 hours

- Primary routes are widened.
- Secondary routes are serviced.
- Plow/De-ice residential streets.
- Residential streets may remain hard packed, but accessible until snow melts.

STAGE 3

Post Storm (simultaneous with Stage 2) - average duration 12 hours

- Hauling operations begin.
- Intersection cleanup begins.
- Bus shelters and cluster mailbox areas are cleaned.
- Storm drains are serviced as necessary.

Date: 8/27/2018