



THE HONKER

Columbine Lakes Community News

April 2026

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Townhouse Association Board Meeting

April 15, 2026 @ 6:30pm

at the Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome.

The Board of Directors will be meeting in person at the clubhouse with a hybrid option.

Google Meet link:

<https://meet.google.com/geo-vvem-ohe>

Or dial: (US) +1 515-599-7342

PIN: 154 422 320#

Budget Committee Meeting

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

4:00pm at the Clubhouse

Social Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 1

5:00pm at the Clubhouse

Maintenance Association Meeting

June 1, 2026

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 288 775 831 151 50

Passcode: eP6VQ2At

Dial in by phone: 469-844-7991

Phone conference ID: 638 368 650#

Landscaping Committee Meeting

Saturday, April 3

11:00am at the Clubhouse

Wilder Calendar

April 7: 2nd Grade Prairie Day (All day - lots of parent visitors & volunteers)

April 17, 20: Teacher work days

April 28 at 5:45pm: Musical Performance

May 22: Last day of school, early release

Message From The Townhouse Board

Thank you to residents who wait until Wednesday evening to place large items next to the dumpsters for Thursday bulk pickup. It would be helpful to have everyone do this. When throwing trash into the dumpsters, please watch to ensure trash clearly makes it all the way in. All trash should be in the tied bags to reduce risk of trash blowing out or animals accessing. It takes a village to keep our community in good condition.

Max Kendrick, who is replacing the wildlife platform in the middle pond for his Eagle Scout Project, will begin fundraising soon. The funds raised will be collected by CLTA. Monies raised will go 1st to reimburse Max for his expenses; 2nd for an appreciation plaque and 3rd for other pond improvement purposes - i.e. compressor replacement, benches, etc.



Along those lines, volunteers from the community will be pulling out the old deteriorating dock. If anyone has and is willing to lend a small row boat or other sturdy item that can be used to access the dock and to tie on ropes, please call or email columbinelakesclubhouse@gmail.com.

The Board continues to identify the most egregious potholes and concrete issues to fix. Our 2026 budget for these fixes is only \$14,136. We will apply an additional \$10,000 from January's snow removal line item savings to the projects. This still will not be enough to fix everything. Your patience as we make tough decisions is greatly appreciated.

The Board has identified 32 outside water shut off valves and is getting bids to have them exercised. We honestly don't know when, if ever, this has been done. As a fifty year old property it is important that we know our water shut-offs work! Our next step is to identify buildings that only have interior building water shut-offs (in an individual unit for the whole building) and make sure they are operational. MSI has the identification sheet and it is on the portal.

The Budget Committee is working on getting figures together for our Five-Year-Plan. They will be developing an operating budget that truly addresses what we need to have available to effectively meet our year-to-year needs. They also will be looking at our Reserve Study and wish lists that have been submitted by our committees to develop an effective reserve account funding plan. It is expected that these items will have shocking numbers, but we feel it is necessary to present this information to the community this summer, before our official budget season. We hope to have productive, heart felt conversations about what we all desire as a community and what we're willing to do to get us there.

Financial Corner:

12/31/25 Total Cash \$471,250.41

02/28/26 Total Cash \$525,880.27

Month Increase \$54,629.86

— Your Townhouse Board of Directors:
Aura Leigh, Stephanie, Chris, Michelle, and Bree

Maintenance Association Updates

Water: Denver Water has declared a drought and is expected to restrict watering to a maximum of 2 days per week. Additionally, Denver Water is meeting on April 8th to vote on drought pricing. Preliminary proposal is to charge an additional \$1.65/1,000 gallons on all water usage above the Average Winter Consumption (AWC). Denver Water estimates an impact to Columbine Lakes of \$20,193 if we maintain the same water consumption of last year. The Maintenance Board will communicate final drought pricing and watering restrictions as soon as they are final.

Loan Update: Loan payments continue to be made on time. The loan balance is currently just over \$1 million.

— **Your Maintenance Board of Directors:**
Brianna, Troy and Michelle

Walking Awareness

In our community, it is advised to always walk facing oncoming traffic since we do not have sidewalks. This helps you see approaching cars and react quickly if needed. Stay as far to the left as possible and stay alert.

Be extra careful in parking lots and driveways—accidents can happen there because drivers may not expect pedestrians or may only be watching for other cars. Slow down, watch for brake lights, and make sure drivers see you before walking behind a vehicle.

Talk with kids about road safety. Because they're smaller and harder to see, they're at greater risk.

At night, wear light-colored or reflective clothing so drivers can see you. Morning and late afternoon sun can also make it harder for drivers to spot pedestrians, so use extra caution then. Walking facing traffic helps you stay aware, especially when visibility is low.

And likewise – Drivers, beware that we don't have roadside sidewalks in this community - so drive carefully expecting to see pedestrians. Stay alert, avoid distractions like phones, and follow speed limits.

Stay safe out there!

— **Concerned Neighbors**

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May deadline is April 15th.

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CLUBHOUSE

Columbine Lakes Clubhouse
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Clubhouse Hours: Office hours by appointment.
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Visits by appointment.

After Hours Maintenance Emergency: 303-420-4433

The *Honker* is published monthly through a joint effort between the Columbine Lakes Townhouse Association and Maintenance Association, non-profit homeowner's associations.

News Articles

The deadline for news articles is the 23rd of the month. To submit an article please e-mail it to columbinelakesclubhouse@gmail.com. Articles are printed on a space-available basis. No endorsement of any product or service is implied/stated by its inclusion in the newsletter.

Advertise in this Newsletter!

The deadline for advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

Newsletter Connections:
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Classified ads are \$4.00/line (about 40 characters/line). Contact Newsletter Connections at **303-979-7499** or info@NewsletterConnections.com to place an ad. To view our display ad prices, visit our website at NewsletterConnections.com. The deadline for placing a classified or display ad is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue (i.e., 15th of Sept. for Oct. issue), except the January issue, which has a deadline of December 6th. Residents placing ads to sell household items are not charged a fee.



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www.ckrd.org


When, If Ever, Have You Cleaned Your Sewer?

Hey guys, we're a fifty+ year community!! We've had a number of sewer back-ups in the last few months. It is recommended that sewers be cleaned out every 1-3 years. Please do yourself a huge favor and get your sewer lateral cleaned! A board member has negotiated with Drain Terriers to give a special rate for Columbine Lakes residents. A flyer is inserted in this Honker. Please note that the board is not allowed to recommend or guarantee the work of this or any company. It is always a good idea to get a few quotes for jobs like this. But once again, PLEASE DO IT!!




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Now Enrolling for Colorado UPK for the 26-27 school year!

Social Events – Save The Dates *(additional details each month)*

- **April 2, 10-11am:** First Thursday Coffee Hour.
Optional to bring a light treat to share
- **April 10, 6-9pm:** MEET N' EAT Potluck for ALL residents focused on building friendships and community.
Food sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849AAAC29A1F8C25-63116679-community>
- **April 24, 8-10pm:** Glow in the Pool Party, high school students only. Glow items donated by resident. Thank you!
- **May 16:** Spring Clean-Up, Community Dumpster & Shredding
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849AAAC29A1F8C25-63119121-community>
- **May 24, 2-5pm:** Memorial Day Potluck & Community Cookout
- **June 13:** Game Night
- **July 4:** Fireworks Watch Party
- **August 4:** National Night Out with Big Apple Bodega food truck
If you are willing to volunteer to help out at these or any events, please email columbinelakesclubhouse@gmail.com.

What Neighbors Make Possible

Spring returns quietly at Columbine Lakes—more sunlight on the ponds, birds singing louder, lawns waking up in patches, and trees and flowers starting to bloom. It's a reminder that our community, though sometimes uneven, always comes back to life. With spring, I also notice neighbors coming together, lending time, attention, and perspective to the spaces we share. At over 50 years old, Columbine Lakes has ponds, lawns, and buildings shaped by Colorado seasons. While HOA dues cover the basics, neighbor involvement makes a big difference. That's where our committees come in—neighbors caring for what we share in different ways. The Landscaping Committee tends to the natural spaces, the Amenities Committee cares for gathering spots, the Budget Committee stewards our resources, and the Social Committee brings us together.

It's not one big effort, but many small ones—neighbors making it all possible. This spring, I'm starting simple: noticing what needs attention on my walks and doing one small thing when I can. If a few of us join in, it adds up.

— Warmly, Your Neighbor Across the Pond

On The Wild Side: Crows and Their Gifts

Gabi Mann, a young girl from Seattle, first caught the attention of local crows at age 4 by accidentally dropping food. By age 8, she began intentionally feeding them—and noticed something remarkable: the crows started bringing her “gifts.” These items included a small silver ball, paper clips, bits of foam, and even Legos. Most impressively, they once returned a camera lens cap she had lost in an alley. Similar “crow gifting” has been reported elsewhere, though it often takes time, patience, and attention to notice.

Is this behavior a sign of appreciation, or a kind of trade for future food? Crows are known for their intelligence, including tool use and problem-solving, so it's tempting to think there's intention behind their choices.

We may never know their true motivation—but it's something to consider the next time a crow flies overhead.

— Thanks, Deb Carstensen



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