

Stony Creek News

May 2026

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Wildflowers Of Deer Creek Canyon Park

Thurs., May 28, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Deer Creek Canyon,

13388 Grizzly Road, Littleton

Cost: Free - Registration Required on the Jefferson County Civic Rec Sign Up

In person at Deer Creek Canyon main trailhead. Join us as we explore a hiker-only trail where we'll be looking for as many flowering species as we can find.

It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.

—William James

Mother's Day, May 10

Mother's Day is a time-honored tradition of recognizing the women in our lives who raised us, dried our tears, and well, mothered us. Everyone has one or has someone who is like a mother to them. On the second Sunday of May, we honor those women who are our mothers. Whether we shower her with gifts, take her to a fancy dinner or make her a homemade card, what moms want most is to be surrounded by the love of her family. Knowing the people they love are safe, sound, and healthy is a mom's number one priority.

HOW TO OBSERVE MOTHER'S DAY

Pay tribute to your mother this holiday. Surround her with the love she deserves and shower her with the affection and attention you know she wants. For those of us whose moms are no longer with us, spend some time remembering the woman you miss. Visit with those who remember her and honor her memory. If you're a mom, revel in the attention. You deserve it!



10 Things Homeowners Should Do Before Summer

Few things are as American as home ownership! Although being a homeowner is the classic American dream, it is actually a big responsibility. Not only is it a large investment, there is the ongoing issue of upkeep and maintenance. This isn't easy to do because every season, every climate and home comes with unique challenges. You have to understand those challenges in order to protect your home and keep it in great shape for years to come. With summer right around the corner, there are some things you'll want to add to your weekend to-do list.

- 1. Check the gutters, even if you cleaned them before spring.** This is the easiest way to make sure that summer showers don't lead to foundation damage. Gutters should be clean of debris, well connected and the downspouts need to usher water away from your foundation.
- 2. Before it gets too warm outside, inspect your home's crawl spaces.** You are looking for moisture first, because even a little moisture can lead to mold and rot. You should also take a note of the temperature in these areas to make sure your insulation is doing its job.
- 3. Schedule a summer HVAC check up.** This will let you beat the summer rush and catch small issues before they lead to expensive repairs and downtime during the hotter months of the year.
- 4. Inspect your home's irrigation system.** This includes examining the lines and nozzles for leaks and clogs. Check your sprinkler heads to make sure they are also working properly.
- 5. Get your yard gear out of storage and check everything out.** This includes checking your mower, trimmer and hoses along with anything you rely on for maintenance. Doing things like checking the oil, starting up everything and making sure hoses haven't developed holes over the winter can save you a lot of frustration!
- 6. Schedule pest control!** Bugs might be few and far between in the winter but spring and summer is a different story. Schedule pest control now to prevent being overrun by creepy crawlers.
- 7. If winter and spring storms have damaged your trees and shrubs, now is the time to take care of it.** Remove dead or unhealthy branches, or call in a professional for help. Luckily, it's a great time to plant if you're wanting to replace dead shrubs or bushes.
- 8. Changing temperatures and moisture can cause big problems for your driveway, sidewalk and foundation.** Walk around and examine everything, paying close attention to cracks. If you notice anything new, call a professional to fix it before it grows into a larger, more expensive problem.

continued on page 3

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The deadline for advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue, except for the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th.

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Before Summer, *continued from front page*

9. **Check all your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as well as your fire extinguishers.** If you don't have any, make this a priority!
10. **Last but not least, remember to switch out your HVAC filter.** Mark it on your calendar and do it more frequently throughout the cooling season. This will help your equipment work properly, and help keep your utility bill in check.

Denver Arts Festival

Address: Conservatory Green, Central Park,
8304 E. 49th Pl. Denver, CO 80216

Date: Saturday-Sunday, May 23-24, 2026

Cost: Free

Website: denverartsfestival.com

Be ready for a festival that celebrates the arts and aims to promote some of Colorado's fine artists. The Denver Arts Festival will be celebrating its 27th year and is inviting everyone to come to join the festivities.

The annual arts festival will be held at the Conservatory Green in Central Park from Saturday to Sunday, May 23rd to 24th, 2026. Denver Arts Festival expects around 50,000 people in attendance, so if you love art, be sure not to miss this.

This premier event will showcase fine arts and fine crafts from Colorado and national artists. Apart from the exhibition, there will also be music and art activities for the kids to enjoy.

Get Caught Reading Month

There is no better challenge than Get Caught Reading Month in May. All month long, wherever you go, the campaign challenges every one of all ages to get caught reading! Here are some great tips to be prepared to read all month long.

- Tuck magazines into your bag. Anytime you have some free time you will have something to read.
- Place books for all ages in the car. Everyone will have something to read. Older children can read to those who haven't mastered the skill.
- Unplug for the month. Then stop by the library and pick out the latest bestseller or classic on your reading list.
- Charge up the digital reader's battery and load it up. Many classics have been made available for a small fee or no cost.
- Get caught reading to children. Find a snug spot and create a routine that carries on throughout the year.
- Include a book in every room in the house.
- Encourage reading during stressful times as a way to distract the mind away from worries and to refocus.
- Read outdoors in a park after a walk.

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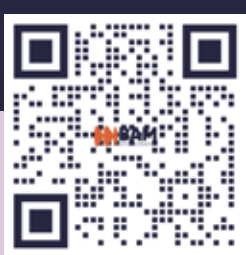



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Colorado Free Days 2026

Last summer, I put together one of my favorite articles highlighting the free days offered throughout Colorado. As we continue to inch closer to the end of the school year and the start of summer, I thought this would be a great time to revisit the amazing free activities taking place this season – because who doesn't love free?

Note: Some of these events require tickets reserved ahead of time, so be sure to visit their website to find out how to get access for you and your family!

Outdoor Activities

- National Parks (Rocky Mountain, Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde & Black Canyon) – Free on Memorial Day (May 25), Flag Day (June 14), Independence Day Weekend (July 3–5), and August 25 for the National Park Service's 110th Birthday.
- Colorado State Parks – All 42 parks are free on Colorado Day, August 1.
- Denver Botanic Gardens (including Chatfield Farms right here in Littleton!) – Free on June 9, July 1, and August 25.

Indoor Activities

- Denver Museum of Nature & Science – Free on June 19 and August 24.
- Denver Art Museum – Free on June 9, July 14, and August 1. Kids 18 and under are always free!
- Children's Museum of Denver – Joy Park is free every third Friday evening, May through September, from 4:30–8 p.m.

I hope you all find this helpful! Let me know if you take advantage of any of these free days this summer. And if you're thinking about selling your home and have questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call – I'd be happy to help!

— Rob Stark,

Local Columbine Knolls Resident, Stark Real Estate Group

Brighten Your Home For Spring

Instantly brighten your space by swapping heavy, dark items for light-reflecting, natural alternatives. Key swaps include replacing dark curtains with sheer fabrics, switching to light-colored textiles, introducing mirrors, adding greenery, and changing to warm light bulbs, all of which enhance natural light and create a fresh atmosphere.

1. **Swap Heavy Drapes for Sheer Curtains:** Replace thick, dark window treatments with sheer or light-filtering curtains to maximize natural sunlight and create an airy atmosphere.
2. **Swap Dark Textures for Light Fabrics:** Trade velvet cushions or heavy throws for linen, cotton, or lighter tones to bring warmth without heaviness, instantly elevating the room's aesthetic.
3. **Swap Dark Decor for Mirrors:** Replace small artwork or dark decor pieces with mirrors placed opposite windows to reflect light and create the illusion of a larger, brighter space.
4. **Swap Dry Decor for Greenery/Flowers:** Bring in fresh-cut flowers or leafy green plants to add natural movement, color, and a spa-like freshness to tables and shelves.
5. **Swap Harsh Lights for Warm Bulbs:** Switch out bright white bulbs for warm white bulbs to create a softer, more inviting, and cozy ambiance. These small changes, often recommended for spring or summer refreshes, can significantly boost your mood and the feel of any room.

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Meet Rob Stark!

Rob is a fourth-generation Colorado native who has been a part of the *Columbine community* since 1997. Starting as a Certified Residential Appraiser, he later became a broker with RE/MAX in 2006. Over his 34-year career, he achieved the RE/MAX Diamond Award, Lifetime Achievement, & Hall of Fame. He has also been recognized as 5280 Magazine's Top Real Estate Agents.

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