

FROM THE BOARD

New Website URL



We're changing our website address effective April 28. We've decided to use Yahoo as both our website host and DNS provider. Our new URL is <http://valhoa.org>.

Just as before, our site is one of the best ways to keep informed about the VAL. The site contains timely notices about VAL meetings and events, Board meeting agendas and minutes, newsletters, and our VAL documents. Speaking of our documents, you can find our Rules & Regulations, trash pickup and recycling schedules, Colorado Senate and House bills, VAL forms, and other types of helpful information.

You can send an email to all the VAL Board members and Tony just by clicking the *Send an email to the VAL BoD* link on the Board Members page. On our ACC page you'll find a printable (pdf) and an online (Microsoft® Word) version of our Architectural Change Request Form.

About This Newsletter

Nope, the VALHOA Newsletter from your former newsletter author/editor is not back. This is a one-time only edition to introduce our new website URL.

Dryer Vent Cleaning

The VAL has a contractor ready to clean both the inside and outside dryer vents. Each homeowner will be responsible for the cost, which will be no more than \$89 per unit*. Your participation is optional. If you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity, call Tony (303.979.1472) on or before April 30.

* The venting hose that connects your dryer to the vent must be a non-combustible material or a solid metal hose. Plastic and flexible foil hoses are now prohibited. If the contractor has to replace a non-compliant hose, the cost will be higher.

Homeowners Insurance

Our carrier and our HOA rules require **ALL** homeowners to have evidence of insurance information on file with our Management Company. If your insurance company routinely provides an evidence (or proof) of insurance document, you or your agent can send it to the same address that we send our maintenance fees: Rocky Mt. Home Management, PO Box 621133, Littleton, CO 80162-1133, or it can be emailed to rockymtmtgt@aol.com. If your insurance company does not provide said documentation, send our Management Company a copy of your Declarations page.

Current Contact Information

We do not have current contact information for several residents. This information is not shared with anyone and is only used when there is an immediate need to contact a resident. Please make sure our Management Company, Tony (303.979.1472), has your phone numbers (cell, land-line, and work) and your email address. Even if you think it's on file, it's always a good idea to call and make sure it's current.

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Board Members

Carol Kluver
President
presidentvalhoa@yahoo.com
Scott Munstock
Vice President
vicepresidentvalhoa@yahoo.com
Keri Reed
Treasurer
treasurervalhoa@yahoo.com

Member-At-Large

Mary Ann Gibson
atlarge4valhoa@yahoo.com
Darla DeGuevara
atlarge2valhoa@yahoo.com
Charles (Chuck) Fisher
atlarge3valhoa@yahoo.com
Elisabeth Cortese
atlarge1valhoa@yahoo.com

OUR MANAGEMENT COMPANY

ROCKY MT. HOME MANAGEMENT
TONY LEMBERGER
P. O. BOX 621133
LITTLETON, CO 80162-1133
(303) 979-1472
ROCKYMTMGT@AOL.COM
MAINTENANCE EMERGENCY
(720) 352-3058

*The Board of Directors
meets the 3rd Thursday of
each month at 7 p.m. at
the Bemis Library, and
you are always invited.*

Summer Reminders

Now that the summer is on its way, the Board would like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents and their visitors (both two- and four-legged) a fun-filled and safe summer. With that end in mind, we would like to share with you some Summer Reminders:

Homeowners' Spring/Summer Projects

If you're planning an outdoor cleanup or landscaping project, please contact an HOA representative*; they can assist you in obtaining the proper forms and in following the ACC/Board recommendation and approval process**. At the least, you will need to submit a liability waiver and an Architectural Change Request form. (You can download both forms from the Documentation page on our website.) Any architectural change, such as windows, doors, storm doors, landscaping, and decorative/ornamental items attached to the chimney or siding, is subject to our ACC/Board recommendation and approval process (Keep in mind that this process can take up to 45 days.). The intent of this process is to ensure that the results of your project conform to the current aesthetics, integrity, and uniformity of the complex.

When you begin a project, keep the following in mind:

- You assume any and all liability and responsibility for personal injuries (to yourself and others) and for any property damage caused by your efforts.
- The completion of your project includes the cleanup and disposal of all waste items. Our landscaping company and our waste removal company are not responsible for the cleanup (or support) of any resident's project.
- If you feel that a larger trimming, pruning, or cleanup project is necessary, contact an HOA representative and we'll contact the appropriate contractor.

* Your HOA representatives are: Tony, any Board member, or any ACC member.

** When you have all your forms and supporting information, the next step will be to submit them to our HOA Management Company representative: Tony Lemberger, Rocky Mt. Home Management, PO Box 621133, Littleton, 80162-1133. You can email all your information to rockymtmtgt@aol.com.

Patio Items

Keep an eye on your patio items. You might want to consider putting a lock on your patio fence door or bringing valuable items indoors when you're away from home or at night. If your patio functions as an emergency egress, keep that key close at hand. Also, keep items out of street-level eye sight; if they can't see it, they won't steal it.

Garage Doors

With summer heat on the way, we will all be looking for ways to keep our homes cool. Leaving your garage door open is NOT one of them. Please remember that our rules state that we must keep garage doors closed except when performing acceptable types of work. While the rules are important, a more important reason to keep that garage door shut is theft. Residents have

had items stolen when they left their garage doors open. Please, DO NOT help thieves by leaving your garage door open.

Also, DO NOT store flammable items in your garage. Fire and 30-year-old buildings don't mix.

Parking



Some of our residents might be lucky enough to have summer guests. If your guest will need access to visitor parking (beyond the 72 hour rule), please let a board member know. We want your guests' visits to be enjoyable; we don't want them to be subjected to parking violation notices and possible ticketing and/or towing.

With the possibility of summer visitors, it becomes even more important that residents follow the intent and spirit of our parking rules. The Board has received complaints about the inappropriate use of visitor parking spaces. The rule for residents' use of visitor parking spaces is clear, **“Because additional parking spaces are at a minimum, residents are required to park vehicles in their garages and shall not park them outside of the garage. Short term parking of a few hours for maintenance, deliveries, appliance/carpet installations, etc. is acceptable.”**

Visitor parking spaces are not to be used for your vehicle while you store recreational items, such as an ATV, RV, or boat in your garage for the summer. If you have an emergency or temporary situation that would cause you to violate the intent or spirit of our parking rules, please contact a Board member. The Board can grant temporary exemptions, or the Board can allow you to rent a space for \$50 a month. Please respect the HOA rules and be considerate of your fellow residents and their guests.

Pets

While it may be convenient for you to tether your pet to a tree, fence, or handrail – Please – DO NOT engage in this activity. Also, do not let your pet run free.

Be respectful of your neighbors and your community; clean up after your pet.

Barbeque Grills and Our Insurance

To be in compliance with our insurance policy when using your barbeque grill, residents are asked to comply with the following fire-safety guidelines:

- Keep your barbecue grill as far away from any combustible structure as possible.
- Never leave a barbecue grill unattended.
- Keep a water hose attached to the patio facet and within easy reach when using your grill.
- Have a fire extinguisher within easy access of the barbecue grill.

Wildlife Feeding

Many of us have a great affection for the birds, squirrels, and feral cats that call this area of Littleton home; however, do not feed them. It is healthier and better for them to learn to forage for their food. It also keeps our property cleaner and more sanitary.

PROJECT UPDATES

Summer Projects

The Board is in the process of soliciting bids for various projects.

A couple of the major projects we hope to address this summer are asphalt repairs and irrigation improvements (based on the results of a Denver Water audit of our current landscaping and irrigation system). And as always, routine repairs and maintenance will be in process throughout the summer.

Information regarding the projects and schedules of any work that will affect residents will be posted on our website and our mail stations as soon as it is available.

NICE TO KNOW¹

Water Conservation

If you've been thinking about installing new high-efficiency toilets, now might be just the time. Denver Water is currently conducting a rebate program for up to \$150 for qualifying high-efficiency toilets. If you're interested, visit their [website](#)² for more information and an application, and call Tony (303.979.1472) for the water account number for your building.

Security Tips for Homeowners

Warmer weather and longer days mean we'll be spending more time outdoors. Unfortunately, so will those interested in easy profit through crime. To make it harder and more difficult for these folks to target the VAL, you might want to consider the following:

- Park cars in garages if at all possible.
- Keep the garage door closed.
- Lock car doors (even in the garage).
- Do not leave valuables or personal information inside your car.
- If you have to park your car outside the garage, remove the garage door opener.
- Never leave your keys inside the car.
- Never leave your car running unattended.
- If you plan to be out of town, have the delivery of your newspaper discontinued until your return, or have a neighbor collect the papers (daily).
- Keep your doors (townhouse) locked, even when home.
- Keep your patio door locked.
- Keep ground level windows locked, especially when you're away and at night.

If you observe any suspicious activity, call the Littleton Police Department at (303) 794-1551. If you feel a threat is imminent, call 911.

¹ Any logo, brand, product name, or trademark represented within this document is the property of its respective company or organization.

² <http://www.denverwater.org/Conservation/Rebates/ResidentialRebates/>

EVENTS

South Suburban Park Foundation

Calling friends, family, schools, businesses and community members to come together and give a morning of volunteer time for The **BIG (Be Involved Give)** Day Trails Clean-Up Saturday, April 26, 8:30 a.m.–noon. To celebrate the day, the SSPF will be hosting community trail clean-ups where we live, work and play. Grab your work gloves and come help clean the trails we all use and love! Last year more than 150 volunteers collected multiple truckloads of debris found within the Big Dry Creek and trail corridor. Bicycles, shopping carts, rugs and more were collected and if feasible, recycled. For more information—locations, what to bring, what to wear, free lunch, etc.—visit their [website](#)³.

Free Day at National Parks

It's not too late to see our National Parks for free. The following are the remaining free entrance days for 2014:

- August 25—National Park Service Birthday
- September 27—National Public Lands Day
- November 11—Veterans Day

For more information, visit their [website](#)⁴.

Botanic Gardens—Denver and Chatfield—Free Days

Denver	Chatfield
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, Aug. 4• Saturday, Nov. 8• Friday & Saturday Nov. 14 & 15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday, May 5• Tuesday, June 3• Tuesday, Aug. 5• Tuesday, Nov. 4

For more information, visit their [website](#)⁵.

Aspen Grove Events

For more information about any of the following Aspen Grove events, visit their [website](#)⁶.

- **A Paris Street Market** – the first Saturday of every month, May 3–October 4, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
- **Tour for Life 2014** – Sunday, May 11, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. The Humane Society of the South Platte Valley and the North Shore Animal League America present the world's largest cooperative life-saving adoption event. Save a life today and adopt a new best friend.
- **Epic Spring Cleaning Event** – Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Clear out your closets and garages and donate gently used clothing and household items. Drop off your donations at the arc Thrift Stores semi-trailers in the Aspen Grove parking lot.

³ <http://sspf.org/events/>

⁴ <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>

⁵ <http://www.botanicgardens.org/plan-your-visit/visitor-information/free-days>

⁶ <http://www.shopaspengrove.com/>

Denver Chalk Art Festival



The Denver Chalk Art Festival on Larimer Square is a FREE two-day street-painting festival. More than 200 artists spend hours that weekend turning the streets of Larimer Square into a museum of chalk art. The event will be held Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m.–10 p.m. and Sunday, June 1, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. For more information, visit their [website](#)⁷.

Downtown Denver Arts Festival

The Downtown Denver Arts Festival (DDAF) continues to be dedicated to supporting Colorado visual artists while showcasing a select group of national artists. The fine art and fine craft exhibition features over 100 of Colorado's best artists along with a select group of national artists. The DDAF will be celebrating its 16th Anniversary and has moved back to its original home, the Denver Performing Arts Complex at Speer Blvd. and Arapahoe Street.

Dates: May 23–25; Times: Friday 4–8 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information, visit their [website](#)⁸.

Downtown Littleton Block Party

Experience Downtown Littleton's charm at the 10th Annual Littleton Main Street Block Party Saturday, June 14, 6–11 p.m. Ticket pre-sales begin May 26 at many Downtown Littleton Merchants; look for the posters in the windows. For more information, visit their [website](#)⁹.

Farmers' Markets



Do you like fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, fragrant flowers, unique bedding plants, culinary herbs, fresh dairy, and specialty food items? Several farmers' markets will be opening in May. You can visit the following websites for dates, times, and locations: [Colorado Farmers' Market Association](#)¹⁰ and [Colorado Fresh Markets](#)¹¹.

Coloradoinfo.com



There are more events, festivals, and fairs going on in Colorado during the late spring, summer, and early fall than you can count. You can find information for many of these events at Coloradoinfo.com/festivals-fairs. You'll find a little something for everyone, such as film festivals, bluegrass festivals, 'taste of(s)', barbeque challenges, art festivals, jazz festivals, hot air balloon festivals, wine festivals; enjoy specialty/unique events like Mike the Headless Chicken, Wild Wild West festival, Paddle Fest, Chili Pepper & Brew Fest, Renaissance Festival, Rocky Mountain Mustang Roundup, Cowboy's Roundup Days and more. You can also find out what's going on in Colorado on a week-to-week basis by visiting coloradoinfo.com/this-week-in-colorado.

⁷ <http://www.larimerarts.org/>

⁸ <http://www.downtowndenverartsfestival.com/>

⁹ <http://www.downtownlittleton.com/>

¹⁰ <http://coloradofarmers.org/market-listings/>

¹¹ <http://www.coloradofreshmarkets.com/markets.html>

Village at Littleton Homeowners Association
C/O Rocky Mountain Home Management
P.O. Box 621133
Littleton
CO 80162

Mail To: