

#### PCMS 303-224-0004

Bookkeeping Ext. 308 Design Review Ext. 200 MON-THURS 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM FRI 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM corpoffice@pcms.net

#### The Farm at Arapahoe County Homeowners Association, Inc.

President: Kimberly Armitage 1st Vice President: Brian Sprague 2nd Vice President: Brad Hughes Treasurer: Brian Smith Secretary: David Bukovinsky

#### **Design Review Board**

**Chairperson: Ralph Ferullo** 

Steve O'Leary Ray Seggelke Neway Argaw

#### **Landscape Committee**

Chairperson: Steve O'Leary Bob Bock Brad Hughes

Target Your Market With Neighborhood Newsletters

Advertise in the March issue of The Farm at Arapahoe County

Deadline to advertise is

February 20th

E-mail kerri@porchlink.com

## **Reminder Regarding Public Street Snow Removal:**

As a reminder public street snow removal within The Farm at Arapahoe County is handled through Arapahoe County and not the Community Association. Please visit their website for information and updates.

#### Roughly 11,000 Homes Will Sell Today – Will Yours Be One of Them? Article from Bill Watson, The Watson Group

#### 720-463-0002 | bill@watsonrg.com | YourHomeSoldGuaranteedRealtyCo.com

Putting your house for sale on your own – often called "For Sale by Owner" or FSBO – might be on your mind. But you should know that it gets complicated very quickly, especially in today's complex market.

That's why data from the National Association of Realtors (NAR) shows a record low number are going the route of selling on their own.

Instead, more and more homeowners are choosing to work with a real estate agent (see graph below):

And here's why partnering with an expert is the go-to choice. Selling your home is a big deal, and while FSBO might seem like a way to save time or money, it comes with a lot of responsibilities.

The selling process requires setting the right price, navigating a growing amount of legal paperwork, and creating a solid strategy to attract buyers. And going it alone often means taking on more than you bargained for.

Let's look at two big reasons why working with a pro can make all the difference.

#### **1. Getting the Price Right**

One of the biggest hurdles when selling a house on your own is figuring out the right price. **It's not as simple as picking a number that sounds good – you need to hit the bullseye.** Price your home too high, and buyers may overlook your listing. Price it too low, and you could leave money on the table or even raise red flags about the condition of your home.

Real estate agents are experts in finding the right price for today's market trends. As Zillow explains:

"Agents are pros when it comes to pricing properties and have their finger on the pulse of your local market. They understand current buying trends and can provide insight into how your home compares to others for sale nearby."

With their knowledge of the local market, buyer behavior, and what homes like yours are selling for, an agent will help you make sure you set a price that's competitive and that'll draw in buyers. And it's that perfectly strategic price that'll set the stage for selling at top dollar.

#### 2. Understanding and Managing the Paperwork

Another part of the process is dealing with a growing stack of paperwork, from disclosure forms to contracts. Each document needs to be completed accurately, and there are legal requirements to follow that can feel overwhelming if you're not familiar with them.

This is another area where an agent's expertise really shines. They've handled these documents countless times and know exactly what's needed to keep everything on track. Your agent will guide you through the paperwork step by step, making sure it's done right the first time and you understand what you're signing. With their help, you can avoid unnecessary stress and mistakes that can lead to delays, legal complications, and more.

#### **Bottom Line**

Selling your house is a big decision, and having a trusted real estate agent on your side can make all the difference.

Let's connect so you have a pro to help with everything from pricing your home to managing the details. That way we can take the guesswork out of the process and help you sell with confidence.



# **Board Meetings**

### The Farm at Arapahoe County Homeowners Association Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2025:

The Farm at Arapahoe County Board of Directors meets quarterly on the 2nd Wednesday of February, May, August and November at 6:15 PM via Zoom. Please email PCMS at Corpoffice@pcms.net if you would like confirmation of the Zoom meeting login details. Be sure to include the address of the property you own when requesting this information.

- February 12, 2025-6:15 PM
- May 14, 2025-6:15 PM
- August 13, 2025-6:15 PM
- November 12, 2025-6:15 PM-Annual Membership & Budget Ratification Meetings-Please refer to the annual notice, which will be mailed to all homeowners of record, for detailed information, including login details and instructions.

You can also visit The Farm HOA website at <u>www.TheFarmHOA.com</u> for the most up-to-date meeting dates/times.

### 2025 Hillcrest at The Farm Owners Association Board Meeting Information:

The Hillcrest at The Farm Board of Directors meets quarterly on the 2nd Thursday of February, May, August and November at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Please email PCMS at Corpoffice@pcms.net if you would like confirmation of the Zoom meeting login details. Be sure to include the address of the property you own when requesting this information.

- February 13, 2025-6:00 PM
- May 8, 2025-6:00 PM
- August 14, 2025-6:00 PM
- November 13, 2025-6:00 PM-Annual Membership & Budget Ratification Meetings-Please refer to the annual notice, which will be mailed to all homeowners of record, for detailed information, including login details and instructions.

You can also visit <u>www.HillcrestAtTheFarmHOA.com</u> for the most up-to-date meeting dates and times.

### **Homestead at the Farm**

Meetings are held virtually. Please watch your email for the meeting link and agenda.

- 2/18/2025 5:00pm hatf BOD
- 5/13/2025 5:00pm hatf BOD
- 9/16/2025 5:00pm hatf BOD
- 11/18/2025 6:00pm hatf budget ratification/annual meeting



Notice: The Farm at Arapahoe County assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, or art. The acceptance of advertising by The Farm at Arapahoe County does not indicate endorsement by The Farm at Arapahoe County Association, its officials or agents. The Farm at Arapahoe County makes no warranties and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein. The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily the opinions of The Farm at Arapahoe County. Publisher's liability for errors and omissions in both news and advertising is limited to correction in a subsequent issue.

The Farm at Arapahoe County Association, its officials or agents do not recommend or sanction any advertisement. Oversight and management of advertising is controlled by ComPub Media, LLC.

Advertising Policy: This newsletter is published privately for the residents and homeowners of The Farm at Arapahoe County, by ComPub Media.

Advertisements pay expenses related to publishing this newsletter. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising to any person or company. Publisher does not recommend or sanction any advertisement. Advertisers are expected to treat clients and the community ethically. When hiring anyone advertising in this publication, residents are urged to do their own research. Complaints from residents are given serious consideration.

The Teen Services listing is offered and maintained by The Farm at Arapahoe County Association, its officials or agents, and is not a service of ComPub Media, LLC. Any misuse of the listing should be reported immediately to The Farm at Arapahoe County, its officials or agents.



### Check out our Reviews at: www.OurAmazingFans.com

#### Kickstart Your New Year with a Fresh Start: Resolutions for a Move in 2025

As the New Year dawns, it's the perfect time to set meaningful resolutions that inspire positive change. Whether you're dreaming of upgrading to your forever home, downsizing for a simpler lifestyle, or helping a loved one find their perfect fit, 2025 is brimming with opportunity. Start by reflecting on what truly matters to you—more space for your growing family, a shorter commute to reclaim your time, or perhaps a cozy neighborhood with the amenities you've always wanted. New Year's resolutions are not just about personal growth but about creating a foundation that aligns with your goals. Moving into a home that suits your evolving needs can be the perfect way to support the life you're building.

Do you know someone—a friend, family member, or coworker—who has hinted at a move in the coming year? Sharing the idea of setting a "moving resolution" can spark their excitement and help them visualize their next chapter. At Your Home Sold Guaranteed Realty, we're here to make those resolutions a reality. Whether it's finding the ideal home or selling a current property for top dollar, we specialize in turning real estate dreams into achievable plans. So, as you finalize your goals for the year ahead, remember that a new home is more than just an address—it's the launchpad for new memories, opportunities, and milestones. Let us help you or someone you care about take that next step toward a fresh start in 2025

### A Real Estate Company that Gives Back!

## Your Referrals Help The Kids!



Who do you know considering **buying or selling a home you could refer to our real estate sales team**? Not only will they benefit from our award-winning service and iron clad guarantees but the kids at **Give Kids the World Village will benefit as well**. Just give us a call or pass our number on to anyone you know considering buying or selling. Our number is **720-463-0002**.

# FLE AT ONS AT MURPHY CREEK

# On Golf Course Homes from the \$400's! Finalist for Best Paired Homes in Colorado!



# Would you like to buy your next home for less and close faster without having to sell your current home first?



To learn more Call or Text Deano Karavitas at 303-304-9385





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The Farm **Real Estate Report** 

Data Sponsored by Bill Watson, The Watson Group

720-463-0002 | bill@watsonrg.com

YourHomeSoldGuaranteedRealtyCo.com



ADDRESS	SOLD PRICE	DOM	BED	BATH	SQ. FT.		
6489 S Ouray Wy	\$975,000	14	4	3	2,942		
16836 E Caley Pl	\$870,000	134	5	4	4,571		
6529 S Rifle Ct	\$766,500	31	4	4	3,626		
Average Sa	les Price: \$870,500		Average D	ays on Market	(DOM) 60		
Available Homes:	As of 01/15/2025 th	nere are 2 Pro	perties Availab	le for Sale in T	he Farm.		
Aurora Market Snapshot (DEC 22, 2024 – JAN 21, 2025)							
310 Sold Listings	/ \$488,000 Avera	ge Sales P	rice / 106 A	verage Davs	on Marke		

Based on information from REcolorado, Inc. for the period of 12/16/2024 through 1/15/2025.

Not all properties were listed and/or sold by Your Home Sold Guaranteed Realty / The Watson Group

This representation is based in whole or in part on content supplied by REcolorado, Inc. REcolorado, Inc. does not guarantee nor is it in any way responsible for its accuracy. Content maintained by REcolorado, Inc. may not reflect all real estate activity in the market



# The Farm at Arapahoe County **Display Advertising Rates**

Business Card	1/6 Page	1/4 Page
\$30 per issue	\$45 per issue	\$60 per issue
1/3 Page	Half Page	Full Page
\$75 per issue	\$85 per issue	\$110 per issue

Deadline is always the 20th of the preceding month. Email kerri@porchlink with any questions.

ڬ Text us at 720-295-2649 with your email address and we will send you a current rate sheet!



6105 S Main St. #200, Aurora 80016



# Who Is Cupid?

Cupid is often portrayed on Valentine's Day cards as a naked cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the Greek god of love, Eros. Accounts of his birth vary; some say he is the son of Nyx and Erebus; others, of Aphrodite and Ares; still others suggest he is the son of Iris and Zephyrus or even Aphrodite and Zeus (who would have been both his father and grandfather).

According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal who played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn't until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he'd become on Valentine's Day cards.

www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2



# **Complaint Procedure**

Who May Submit Complaints? Complaints regarding alleged violations of the Covenants, Design Guidelines or Rules and Regulations may be reported by members of the Board of Directors, members of the Community or the Association's Manager.

How Complaints Should be Submitted. Complaints by a member of the community shall be in writing and must include a contact name and email address or phone number in case there is an inquiry from the Board or management office regarding the complaint submitted. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted. Your name and contact information will not be provided to the person you have made a complaint about; it is only needed for the management team. The member must have observed the alleged violation and shall contain the nature of the alleged violation, the location of the alleged violation and the date it was observed, photos are very helpful. A complaint may also be submitted by any member of the Board of Directors or by the Association Manager after a walk-through or inspection of the community.

You may send your concerns to PCMS via email at <u>support@</u> <u>pcms.net</u> or via fax at 303-224-0002.



# SHERRI ELMORE <sup>8</sup>cal estate agent

951.733.5153
 selmorehomes@gmail.com
 3045 S Parker Rd #200, Aurora CO
 americanhomeagents.com

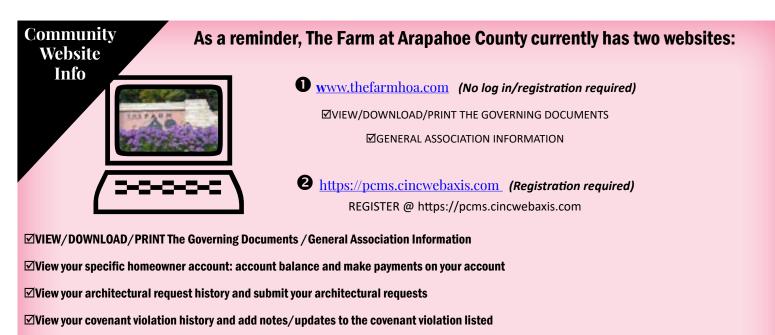
American Home Agents



# **Teen Services Update:**

If you have previously registered your teenager for the Teen Services listing in the newsletter publication and your teen is no longer interested in having their name listed or has moved out of the community, please send an email to <u>corpoffice@</u> <u>pcms.net</u> and request that your teens name be removed from the list. The Association has received a few calls indicating that they have tried calling several of the teens listed and were told they are now at college or moved, etc.

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Submit work order requests for maintenance items you feel need to be reviewed/addressed in the common areas within the community

☑ Receive community e-news updates

# Questions? Please contact corpoffice@pcms.net

# **CINC Webaxis Account/E-News Notifications:**

Please register your account through the CINC Webaxis homeowner portal located at <u>https://pcms.cincwebaxis.</u> <u>com/</u>. You will need your account # to register, which can be found on your welcome letter or most recent assessment billing.

(After you submit your website registration request, the system will send you an email to set your password. Please note that this email may go to your junk folder. The link expires after 5 hours. If you miss this window, please contact the bookkeeper at <u>accounting@pcms.net</u> to have a new link emailed to you.)

This site allows you to see your account information, submit ARC requests, file a concern/complaint and receive updates. The email address used for your account will automatically be in the system to receive community E-News updates. If you would like an additional email address registered, please provide your property address and the additional email address to <u>corpoffice@pcms.net</u>. Don't miss out on important community events and updates.



We have been advertising in the Porchlink newsletters for almost 2 years now. The staff is always professional and pleasant to work with. The newsletter has been very helpful in getting business for our small plumbing company. The ad usually pays for itself each month because so many people use it to get reasonable, trustworthy services.

Michelle Cox Neighborhood Plumber



QUALITY OCON BUSINESSES WORKING IN THE FARM FIND THEM IN THIS PUBLICATION! NO NEED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE... FIND THE HELP YOU NEED!

# The Farm Classified Advertising Advertise For Less–It's Easy!

E-mail your ad to kerri@porchlink.com. Just The Farm: \$10 for 25 words, see pricing for all newsletters on page 4.

# **OB PAINTING:**

10% OFF Interior or Exterior Painting. Over 30 years in business. Call today! 303-908-9063.

## HOUSEPAINTING Exterior \$300 DISCOUNT COUPON!

LANDMARK PAINTING, INC

#### (303) 680-4060

Call for a free estimate. Expiration 06/30/25 www.denverlandmarkpainting.com

**FAMILY LAW IN AURORA:** At CNL Law Firm, PLLC we are here to protect our clients to the greatest extent possible, through every step of the legal process. Free consultations. www.cnllaw.com or chris@cnllaw.com 720-575-5675.

#### UNLOCK EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS ON OUR WEBSITE,

**MOOREHEATINGAC.COM!** Elevate your comfort today – visit us online or call **303-680-5300** to schedule your furnace maintenance/repairs/installations.

**THE BEST CLEANERS:** Lowest prices in town. Honest people. Free estimate. References available **720-364-8403**.

**A BETTER GARAGE DOOR INC.** Garage door and opener repair to full replacements 25 years experience with multiple trucks for a quick response **303-920-2267**.

DON'T WAIT TO GET YOUR GAS FIREPLACE SERVICED OR REPAIRED! Selling soon? Check that off your list! Want to enjoy your fireplace again? Call us today! Quality Fireplace Solutions 303-946-6535.

**AFFORDABLE KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN:** Quick and affordable kitchen and bath cabinet refacing. Complete kitchen and bath remodeling. Call today for a free estimate: 720-837-4885 or **akbdesign2010@aol.com**. Member Team Dave Logan



Classified advertising through Porchlink has been pleasant and productive for our small business. We've received a great deal of business in the targeted areas the newsletter reaches.

# Valerie Petersen



# Try classified advertising-

It's easy, affordable and <u>EFFECTIVE</u>!

Our classified advertising option has been a great success for small, local businesses interested in marketing in an EFFECTIVE & AFFORDABLE way!

And it's EASY to do- simply email kerri@porchlink.com with the text for your ad (base pricing for 25 words, \$.50 per additional word) and let us know which newsletters you would like to advertise in.

Best of all- new advertisers can try classified advertising in and receive the same ad FREE in The following month's issue! Our deadline is always the 20th of the preceding month.

There is no long term commitment, you are welcome to advertise on a monthly basis depending on your needs. However, most of our classified advertisers stick with us month after month... <u>for years</u>!

#### Why not give it a try?

Email kerri@porchlink.com with any questions. We'd be happy to email you any past newsletters or samples of classified ads for reference.

Rates per issue for 25 words, \$.50 per additional word:							
Publication	# of Homes	Rates per issue					
Stonegate	4,600	\$35					
Stroh Ranch	2,400	\$25					
Pradera	550	\$25					
ALL OF Parker (above)	7,550 HOMES	\$75					
Blackstone	2,457	\$35					
Tollgate Crossing	1,500	\$25					
Tallyn's Reach	2,037	\$35					
Saddle Rock North	663	\$25					
Saddle Rock East/South	1,566	\$25					
Murphy Creek	1,400	\$20					
The Farm	1,500	\$10					
ALL OF Aurora (above)	11,123 HOMES	\$165					
Willow Creek 1, 2, and 3	1,629	\$35					
Foxridge	1,000	\$25					
Hunters Hill	275	\$10					
ALL OF Centennial	2,904 HOMES	\$60					
Sapphire Pointe	800	\$15					
Founders Village	2,200	\$15					
ALL OF Castle Rock	3,000 HOMES	\$25					
Colliers Hill (Erie)	1,545	\$25					



# Waste Connections 2025 Recycle Schedule

THE FARM is on the "A WEEK" Schedule | 303-288-2100 | www.wcdenver.com

A WEEK=

Recycling collection will be every other week. Your pick-up is on your regular service day. Please refer to the highlighted lines of this calendar to determine your recycling collection week.

= We observe the following holidays: New Years, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Unless it falls on a weekend day.

Your holiday collection schedule will run 1 DAY LATE (Mon. will be Tues. and so on and Fri. will be Sat.) If your normal pick-up day falls on or after the holiday within the same week.

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# NO

Plastic Bags • Plastic Tops • Shredded Paper • Hard-Back Books • Scrap Metal

Tyvek® Envelopes • Plastic 6-Pack Holders • Needles or Syringes

- Paper Ream Wrappers Plastic Microwave Trays Frozen Food Containers Mirrors, Ceramics or Pyrex<sup>®</sup> • Light Bulbs • Plates or Vases • Drinking Glasses
- Window Glass Hazardous or Bio-hazardous Waste Plastics Other Than Plastics Other Than Those Listed • Tissues, Paper Towels, Napkins

Waxed Paper or Waxed Cardboard • Stickers or Sheets of Address Labels • Kraft<sup>®</sup> (orange/ brown) Envelopes • Styrofoam<sup>®</sup> Cups, Plates, Paper To-Go Containers

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#### Single-Stream Recycling Guide





# **Fox Hollow PTO Community Corner**



Spirit Night Thursday, February 6 4pm - 8pm Howdy's Ice Cream

# No School

February 17 & 18 Presidents Day

# General PTO/SAC Meeting

Monday, February 24 5:30pm School Library

# Foxtrotters vs. 5th Grade Basketball Game

February 28 Liberty Middle School

### PTO Volunteers Needed 2025/26 School Year

PTO President (or co-President) - Board Position VP of Fundraising - Board Position Fox Trotters Co-Chair Student Directory Chair School ToolBox Chair

Spirit Night & Loyalty Programs Chair



Do Not Play on The Playground during school hours 7:40am-3pm everyday Including Wednesdays No Walking Dogs On School Grounds 7:30am-3:30pm Service Dogs Must Be Visibly Labeled

# **The Farm Teen Services**

To add your name please contact: corpoffice@pcms.net \$ updated November 2024

Name	Phone Number	Baby Sitter	Red Cross Certified	Pet Sitter	House Sitter	Lawn Mowing	Chores	Snow Removal	Other
Zachary Ammon	303-221-0626	✓	✓						
Aidan Anderson	720-412-6174					✓			
Isaac Anderson	303-549-1757		U		hea	dlight polishi	ng	U	
Sophia Anderson	303-549-3867	✓		🗸 dogs	~				dog walking
Stratton Anderson	303-549-2170			~	~	~	~	~	math tutoring (middle school and younger) dog walking
Eva Atkinson	720-551-1644 303-408-7114	~		~					
Alina Bates	303-408-2795								dog walking
Jacob Blevins	951-776-6969					✓			weeding
Trevor Bock	720-481-8481			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Joshua Brito-Mariani	303-803-2601			✓		~		~	tutor
Lauren Campbell	720-788-5252	$\checkmark$							tutor familiar w/food allergies
Cooper Elmore	720-584-2549	✓		✓	~				
Chase Enriquez	303-619-9315			✓		✓			
Kelcie G, 15	406-599-0345			✓					
Alejandro Garcia, 14	720-675-0353				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Leonardo Garcia, 15	720-469-3051				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sophia Good	248-897-5105	✓	~	✓					swim lessons
Natalie Krier	720-717-6779	✓	✓						
Zoe Lapidow, 16	720-666-5060	✓	✓						
Lili Lombard	720-477-0308	~	~						
Ellie Lucas.	303-396-8340	✓	✓						
Natalie Marcinek	321-537-9332	✓	✓						
Sophia Marcinek	321-794-7947	✓		√	✓		✓		
Jaya Messer	303-903-9234	✓		✓	✓				Dog walker
Keegan Parris	720-410-2865	✓	1	✓		✓			
Lily Parris	720-410-2865	✓		✓		✓			
Kariana Rodriguez, 14	720-261-5438	✓	✓	✓	✓				Dog walker
Alejandro Salazar, 16	720-291-1279	✓	~		✓	~		~	tutor
Audrey Seidel	720-926-3771	✓	~	✓	✓		✓		
Tenzing Sherpa	303-396-9194	✓	✓	✓	✓		~		tutor
Allie Smith	720-537-6624	~		~	✓				Soccer Lessons, Tutor
Caleb Smith	720-422-1216	✓	✓	<ul><li>✓</li></ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	Baseball Lessons
Maddie Squires	720-318-5912	~	~	~	~			~	Tutoring middle school & younger, dog walking
Hallie Stevens 13	505-263-3528	✓Щ		~	~		√		Dog walking Weed picking
Reagan Stone	720-560-3706	~	✓	✓			~		swim lessons
Harper Stull, 13	720-660-1259			~	√		√		leaf removal, gardening, dog waste collection
Emma Tebben	720-476-2404	✓		✓	✓	✓			tutor & dog walker
Noah Tebben	720-628-7606			✓	✓	✓	✓		dog walker
Adler Tuley	720-808-1442		1			✓	<u> </u>	1	Fertilization
Everest Tuley	720-808-1442		1			✓		1	Fertilization
Mikaela Vernikoff	720-371-0352	✓	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓	✓				
Alexis Walton	720-252-6689	✓	1	 ✓	✓			1	
lan Weidner	720-665-3319	✓	✓	 ✓	✓	1		1	



# Park and Field Reservation Information/Goodman Metropolitan District Contact Information:

Please note that the Goodman Metropolitan District provides the management of the areas that are owned by the District which includes the baseball fields, open fields and Central Park. Visit the parks page at <u>Goodmanmetro.org</u> for more info if you are interested in reserving the fields or park areas in the community. Completed applications and checks can be dropped off or mailed to Goodman Metro District c/o PCMS 7208 S. Tucson Way, #125, Centennial, CO 80112.

# **Goodman Metropolitan District Updates:**

If you would like to receive updates from the Goodman Metropolitan District regarding the Parks and Trails within The Farm, please contact Allison Hanson at <u>ahanson@wbapc.com</u> or 303-858-1800.

# **Application Review Procedure of the DRB**

In order to try and improve the current homeowner design review request submittal procedure, our DRB has established a process for the receipt, review and response of all future design review requests. The DRB will schedule and convene meetings as necessary to review homeowner applications submitted to the management company, PCMS based upon the following schedule; a) owner applications with all required additional documentation received by the first Friday of the month will be reviewed by the DRB for response to the owner by the third Friday of the month; b) owner applications with all required additional documentation received by the DRB for response to the owner by the third Friday of the month; b) riday of the month will be reviewed by the DRB for response to the DRB for response to the ORB for response to the ORB.

# Questions on process for submitting architectural or design review plans?

Please note that the e-mail address for all design review requests and inquiries regarding the submittal process at <u>designreview@pcms.net</u> If you have any questions regarding the process for submitting a plan or would like to submit your plan via e-mail, please do so at this address.



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Microgreens: Iriend or Iad? A New Year's Growing Irend

Nichole Rairigh, CSU Extension Master Gardener, author and photo credit

As winter plods on, planting something to beat the winter blues is an attractive idea. Many of us are thinking about fresh ways to bring vegetables into our lives, though outdoor vegetable gardening is a few months away. Enter microgreens: tiny, nutrient-packed plants that promise big rewards in a short time. Are they a passing trend, or here to stay? Let's explore.

### What Are Microgreens?

Microgreens are small, edible plants harvested at a early stage of growth. They are slightly larger than sprouts but should not be confused with them. These little greens include a variety of vegetables such as mustard, radish, basil, Swiss chard, kale, cabbage, arugula, and cress. There are also specially designed blends tailored to top sandwiches or salads. One of the best things about microgreens is how quickly they grow. From seed to harvest, the whole process takes just 10 days. For those new to gardening, especially kids, growing microgreens is an exciting activity. Watching the plants grow so quickly can inspire young gardeners and teach them about the cycle of plant life—right in the comfort of home.



Jazzy Blend

#### Why Grow Microgreens?

Microgreens are rarely sold in grocery stores and when they are, they are expensive due to fragility of the product and packaging required. Microgreens grow incredibly fast, providing a fast payoff in the doldrums of winter. Plus, they are nutritional powerhouses containing vitamins A, B, and C and antioxidants.

#### How to Grow Microgreens:

Seeds can be procured at your local garden center. I have recently tried cilantro microgreens and the Jazzy Mix offered by Botanical Interests<sup>®</sup>. For step-by-step directions with pictures, visit An Edible Project for Winter Green Thumbs – Pueblo County Extension.

#### Growing microgreens is easy and doesn't require much space. Here's a simple step-by-step guide to get you started:

- 1. Procure Seed Starting Mix or Potting Mix Start by moistening the mix.
- 2. Fill a Container You can use a six-pack from your local nursery or even clear to-go containers with lids. Anything that can hold the mix and allow for drainage works.
- 3. Sow the Seeds Sprinkle the seeds generously over the soil.
- 4. Water Use a spray bottle to moisten the soil.
- 5. Cover Place foil or a lid over the container to block light for the first day. This encourages leggy plants that will reach for the light, making them easier to harvest.
- 6. Light Exposure On day two or three, move the container to a sunny window or under grow lights.
- 7. Harvest Once the first true leaves appear (after the cotyledons, baby leaves), it's time to harvest. Snip off the greens with clean scissors just above the soil level.

#### How to Harvest and Store Microgreens:

Once your microgreens are ready, use clean scissors to trim them just above the soil level. Be sure to harvest them fresh, as their shelf life is short. If you're not using them right away, store them in a container lined with a paper towel in the fridge. They'll stay fresh for about 3-5 days if kept cool and dry. Wash before eating.

### Microgreens: A Fun, Low-Time Commitment Winter Gardening Project!

Microgreens offer an exciting way to keep your gardening spirit alive during the winter months. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, these little plants are a fun, fast-growing project that don't require a lot of space or time. Why not give microgreens a try? They may just become your new favorite kitchen staple. Happy growing! To learn more about microgreens, check out the CSU article: Oct-20-2018-Growing-Microgreens.pdf