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New Year | Same Community | Fresh Momentum

A Note to Our Neighbors

This winter has been unusually dry, and our trees and perennials are feeling it! Please remember to water your trees on warmer days when temperatures are above 40°F and when there's no snow on the ground. Apply water 1-2 times per month to the root zone (drip line) to keep soil moist but not frozen, ideally at midday, to prevent drought stress and to support overall health. Trees rely on winter moisture to support healthy spring growth, and with limited snow this season, a little extra water now can make a big difference for your trees this spring!



WINTER WATERING TIPS



**WATER
TREES FIRST**



**ABOVE
40°F**



**DEEP SOAK
EVERY FEW
WEEKS**

Independence Community Clubhouse Staffed Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 4 – 7 p.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturdays: 12 – 6 p.m.

The gym remains accessible to residents with key fob access outside staffed hours. Stop by during staffed times for reservations, access setup, or general assistance.

Winter Safety Reminder: Ponds & Open Space

Please remember that all ponds throughout Independence are restricted District property and are used for irrigation, retention, and detention purposes only. Ice conditions are unpredictable and unsafe, even during extended cold spells.

For your safety and the safety of others, please stay out of and off all ponds and surrounding areas.

Emergency Contacts: Fire – 303-646-3800 & Sheriff – 303-621-2055



New Facility Access System Now Active

The Independence community has transitioned to a new access system for the gym, pool, and Community Center.

Effective Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, keypad PIN codes will no longer work.

All facility access will require a District-issued access card. The numbered touch pad remains and now acts as a “tap” pad for the key card.

Access Card Details

- One access card will be issued per household during initial distribution.
- Each household is eligible for up to two cards (total).
 - The first card is issued at no cost.
 - A second card will be available in the coming months for an additional fee.
- Access cards are property of the District and remain with the home if it is sold.
- Replacement cards are available for a \$75 fee.
- Facility access will not be available without an access card.

For additional details, please visit the [Recreation page on the District's website](#).

Do You Need a New Access Card?

Residents must visit the Community Center during staffed hours to register and pick up their access card. At the time of pickup, residents will be required to complete a registration form listing household member and acknowledging that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with the facility rules and regulations.

Staffed Access Card Pickup Hours

Monday & Wednesday 4 – 7 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.

Saturday 12 – 6 p.m.

Access cards are issued with a factory-printed ID number. The cardholder's name will be added using a printed label. Residents are strongly encouraged to keep their card on a lanyard, keychain, bracelet, or other holder so it can be easily identified and not confused with another homeowner's access card.

Lost or stolen cards should be deactivated. Please report missing cards promptly to help ensure that access to community amenities remain secure for all residents!



FEBRUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS

HAPPENING AT HOMESTEAD PARK

Share the Love & Pass the Donuts!

Valentines Day Crafts

Saturday, February 7 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Independence Clubhouse

Bring your family and friends to the clubhouse to write Valentine's Day cards for neighbors and community members who could really use a little extra love this year. It's a simple way to share kindness, spark meaningful conversations, and maybe even meet a new neighbor or two along the way!

We'll have Hurts Donuts, juice, and coffee waiting, plus all the Valentine's Day feels you'd expect — minus the pressure. No creative skills required, just a willingness to show up and be part of something thoughtful; You Donut Want to Miss This!

[RSVP Here](#) or please scan the QR Code below so we can plan accordingly.



Join us for our
monthly Independence
Social Committee
meet and greet to
to celebrate



Valentine's Day

Independence Clubhouse

Sat. Feb. 7

10 am - 12 noon



All ages welcome,
come meet Independence
neighbors



Make valentines (will be
donated to local nursing
home for residents)



Coffee & donuts



Please RSVP



Shamrock Shindig

Saturday, March 14 | 6 – 8 p.m. | Clubhouse

Earth Day 

Saturday, April 25 | Tentative Timing | Clubhouse

SummerFest 2026

Saturday, May 30 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bring Your Ideas & Help Shape 2026

Join the Social Committee

A new year means new possibilities — and the Social Committee is well underway planning 2026 events and initiatives. If you enjoy planning, brainstorming, or simply lending a hand behind the scenes, please join us. Your voice matters!

The Independence Social Committee now has its own email address! If you're interested in joining the committee or would like to be added to the mailing list for upcoming events, please email IndependenceSocialCommittee@gmail.com and let us know

Meetings: First Tuesday of each month

Time: 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Independence Clubhouse

Big ideas, small ideas, or just curiosity — all are welcome.

Stay Connected:

- Keep an eye on your email (and your junk folder, just in case)
- Add Contact@IndependenceDenver.com to your address book
- Follow our community pages: FB: [IndependenceNeighborhood](#) | IG: [@indneighborhood](#)
- Follow the Community run pages: FB: [Women of Independence Neighborhood](#) | FB: [Neighbors of Independence](#) (proof of residency required for access)

Or stop by the Clubhouse for event updates.

The more voices at the table, the better our celebrations become. Join the Social Committee and help turn great ideas into unforgettable memories!

HAPPENING IN THE TOWN OF ELIZABETH

Want to stay in the know with what's happening just down the road? Just [click here](#) to learn about Town of Elizabeth community events, updates, and local happenings.

Senior Educational Luncheon — Scams: Protect yourself from Predators

Tuesday, February 17 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Elizabeth

151 S. Banner Street, Elizabeth, CO

Neighbors 55+ and their families are invited to a special Senior Educational Luncheon in Elizabeth featuring “Scams” presented by Hazel Heckers of Colorado Bureau of Investigations.

Learn to protect yourself from the predators: Identify thieves and scammers as criminal predators who want to steal your money, identify and your sense of safety. This presentation will help you understand predators and how to avoid becoming a victim. We will discuss current scams and the crafty ways these criminals use technology and old school techniques to perpetrate their crimes. This will be an interactive presentation, so please bring your questions!

All seniors in our community are invited to the luncheon, as well as family and caregivers -- please join us!

Light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Jennifer 303-931-7105.

Elizabeth Fire will also be offering free blood pressure checks.

Senior Educational Luncheon



Scams

Presented by:

Hazel Heckers of Colorado Bureau of Investigations

Learn to Protect Yourself from the Predators: Identity thieves and scammers are criminal predators who want to steal your money, your identity and your sense of safety. This presentation will help you understand the predators and the way they hunt so that you might avoid becoming their victim. We will discuss current scams and the crafty ways these criminals use technology and old school techniques to perpetrate their crimes. This will be an interactive presentation, so please bring your questions!

Our luncheons are meant for any seniors in our community as well as their family and caregivers, all are welcome

Light lunch will be served.

Elizabeth Fire will also be offering free blood pressure checks.

TUES | **11:00AM-**
FEB 17TH | **12:30PM**

151 S. BANNER ST.
ELIZABETH, CO

RSVP:
JENNIFER
MAXWELL
303-931-7105

HAPPENING NEARBY

Valentine's High Tea & Fashion Show
Presented by: Kiowa Creek Community Church's
Ladies Aid & ECCO Community Thrift Shop
(All proceeds go to these two charities)

Date: Sunday, February 15th
Time: 1:00

Kiowa Creek Community Church - Fellowship Hall
231 Cheyenne Street, Kiowa

\$25.00 per person (6 & under are free)
(pay when you arrive, cash or check)
720.480.0799
or
Pre-paid or Reservations for tables of 8
303.912.7902

Valentine's Day High Tea & Fashion Show

February 15 | 1–2 p.m.

KCCC Fellowship Hall (upper level)

231 Cheyenne St, Kiowa, CO

Presented by the KCCC Ladies Aid and ECCO Community Thrift Shop. All proceeds benefit KCCC Ladies Aid and ECCO Community Thrift Shop.

\$25 per person (6 and under free)
Pay when you arrive, cash or check

To prepay or and/or to reserve tables for 8 people, please call 303.912.7902.

[Click here](#) for more information.

THE BUTTERFLY PAVILLION



Homeschool Day offers multiple experiences designed around a central theme that explores Butterfly Pavilion's featured habitats and animals in a unique way. This event offers an admission discount for homeschool families and allows them to experience typical field trip opportunities, such as special classes, activities, and crafts.

February 10: **Ecosystems** | 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

March 11: **Baby Bugs** | 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register or for more information!

Join us as we discover the interconnected networks of plants and animals that sustain life on our planet. We'll explore the diverse ecosystems found around the world, how invertebrates support our natural habitats, and how we can support them in turn.

Homeschool Day offers:

- Drop-in activities and crafts from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Classes led by Butterfly Pavilion experts
- Discounted Admission

Adults \$12.00 | Children (2-12): \$8.00 | Children (Under 2): FREE

FREE EVENTS

[Free Days at the Denver Zoo](#)

Dates: Sunday, February 22 | Sunday, April 19

**The Denver Zoo holds a lottery for its free museum days. Check the [website](#) for upcoming free day info and for when you need to enter the lottery.*

Free Days at US National Parks

Dates: February 16 – President's Day | May 25 – Memorial Day | June 14 – Flag Day

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

What is the Independence Community Collective?

The Independence Community Collective continues to grow as a place for neighbors to form clubs, share interests, and connect over common hobbies. From outdoor recreation to creative pursuits, this grassroots effort thrives on resident initiative.

Have an idea you'd love to explore this year? A walking group, game night, winter hobby club, or something entirely new? Reach out and let's bring it to life together.

Club information is for informational purposes only and is not necessarily endorsed by the Independence Overlay Metropolitan District.

Additional grassroots community clubs in Independence:

SKI & SNOWBOARD

Join our new Independence Community Ski & Snowboard Group! We're bringing riders of all skill levels together for community and discussion about our favorite winter sport. The groups' purpose is to provide a network for discussing gear, technique, and to plan for carpool trips to the mountains for the club.

To join, reach out to Isaiah Ofalt at ilofalt@gmail.com, or join the Facebook group called "Independence Ski and Snowboard Group."

MONDAY NIGHT GRAVEL — LET'S RIDE!

Winter group rides will continue (mostly on Sundays) through the colder months. Stay up to date on upcoming rides at rustcycling.com/events or follow along on Instagram for the latest updates and ride invites.

INDEPENDENCE HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

If you would like to join, please message Megan Bell at 303-907-5384

INDEPENDENCE HUNTING & FISHING CLUB

Reach out to Robert at RobertCase7676@gmail.com or call 719-247-0067

INDEPENDENCE ART CLUB

Please contact Joe Bennett at JoeBennett.co@gmail.com or 303-503-8634

INDEPENDENCE SMALL BUSINESS GROUP

Please contact Joe Bennett at JoeBennett.co@gmail.com or 303-503-8634

EMPTY NESTERS (no prior kids required)

Would you like to start an "Empty Nesters" group in Independence? This one's for neighbors who are in that sweet spot of life where schedules have loosened a bit and connecting sounds more fun than chaotic. It sounds like a resident-led Empty Nesters group would like to take shape, with ideas like wine-down gatherings, games, good conversation, and occasional outings beyond the neighborhood. Meet during the day, in the evening, during the week — or whenever works for the group. No rules, no labels — just an easy way to meet others in a similar season. Email Kristin@IndependenceDenver.com and we can make a plan together.



INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE

As we settle into winter, the Independence Community Clubhouse remains your go-to spot for workouts, gatherings, and resident support. Whether you're stopping in for a quick question, reserving space for a winter get-together, or keeping up with your fitness routine, the Clubhouse is here to serve you throughout the season. The gym remains open as usual for all residents with building access.

The Front Range Recreation team is available to assist with access set-up, reservations, and general questions. Please bring proof of residency and a valid photo ID when visiting

during staffed hours.

Winter Staffed Hours

- Mondays & Wednesdays: 4 – 7 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturdays: 12 – 6 p.m.

Planning a winter gathering or need to reserve the Clubhouse? Visit the clubhouse during staffed hours to secure your reservation, but if you have questions, contact Front Range Recreation at Office@FrontRangeRecreation.com.

Need assistance or have other clubhouse questions? Stop by during staffed hours or email IndependenceDenver@gmail.com.

If you're facing food insecurity, please remember that you're not alone. Your well-being and your privacy matter deeply here at Independence. We're a community that looks out for one another, and there is no shame in asking for help when you need it. If you're struggling or could use support, please reach out. We're here, and we care.

A Winter Reminder About Picking Up After Pets



Snow doesn't make dog waste disappear — it simply hides it. When temperatures rise, months of trapped waste can surface all at once, creating unpleasant odors and unsanitary conditions. Cold weather also slows natural breakdown, meaning bacteria and parasites can remain active well into spring. Between snow, mud, and ice, dogs tend to roam more unpredictably. When poop is hidden under snow, they'll step in it without you realizing it — tracking bacteria into your home, car, and floors.

Picking up after pets year-round helps keep our community clean, protects kids and pets,

and prevents waste from washing into local waterways when the snow melts. Thank you for doing your part to keep Independence clean and walkable for everyone.

If barking becomes a regular issue, a quick check-in can often help — whether it's a passing squirrel, a delivery truck, or a little extra pent-up energy. If ongoing concerns arise, please contact Elbert County Animal Control at 303-621-2027.

INDEPENDENCE METRO DISTRICT AND PUBLIC ALLIANCE



Please save his contact information below. If you have questions or simply want to introduce yourself, the Public Alliance team is here to help:

Phone: 720-213-6621

Email: Contact@PublicAllianceLLC.com

Visit, bookmark, and favorite the Independence Websites where you can find information about community happenings, news, meetings, documents, and all things related to Independence and the Metro Districts:

[The Overlay District – Homestead and Pool/Gym](#)

[Districts 1-6 – Where You Live](#)

[Independence Water and Sanitation District](#)

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

A February Message from the Metro District

We love seeing Independence shine through every season, and as we move into winter, here are a few timely reminders to help keep our community safe, welcoming, and looking its very best:

WINTER WEATHER & PARKING REMINDERS

Snow season is officially here! To ensure plows can safely and efficiently clear our streets, please remember to keep all vehicles parked in driveways or garages whenever snow is in the forecast. Vehicles left on the street limit maneuvering space and may prevent Elbert

County and our contractors from plowing.

Motor vehicles of any kind are strictly prohibited in all surrounding open space.

SEASONAL DECORATIONS

As a reminder, seasonal decorations should be **removed within 15 days** after the holiday.

TRASH CONTAINERS

The 2026 annual Trash Fee of \$214.92 appeared on the December AmCobi water bill (2025 was \$206.64). *Residents have until March 1st to pay their 2026 Trash Fee with AmCobi without a late fee.*



For all completed homes with a certificate of occupancy:

Trash containers may be placed curbside after 6 a.m. on pickup day.

They must be returned to proper storage by 9 p.m. the same day.

Containers should be stored out of sight between pickups.

These small steps keep our neighborhood clean and looking beautiful!

RESIDENTIAL WATER & NON-POTABLE WATER UPDATE

On November 20, 2025, the Board of Directors of the Independence Water & Sanitation District made a decision to adjust the rates for residential water and sanitary sewer usage. Starting January 1, 2026, both potable and non-potable water rates, as well as sanitary sewer rates, will see a 5% increase. This change is necessary to keep up with the rising costs of operating and maintaining our community's water and sanitary sewer systems.

As a reminder, the last rate adjustment took place in 2024. We appreciate your understanding and support as we work to provide you with quality water and sewer services.

WEEDS & TREES

Even in winter, landscape maintenance matters. Please take a moment to check for lingering weeds or trees that may not have survived the summer. Keeping yards neat supports the welcoming character of Independence.

Section 8.1.1 Sightly Conditions: Each Unit shall at all times be kept, maintained, repaired and replaced in a good, clean and sightly condition by the Owner thereof.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

A friendly reminder that recreational vehicles, campers, and trailers may not be parked in driveways or on the street for longer than **72 hours** (Article 21 in the District's covenants).

This guideline helps keep streets clear, improves visibility, and maintains the overall appearance of our community.

DESIGN REVIEW

Thinking about a winter project or planning ahead for spring? Any exterior changes — landscaping, patios, architectural modifications — must be submitted for design review before work begins. You can find covenants and design guidelines on the Overlay Districts page. Click [here](#) for more information.

For New Homeowners, what is a Special District?

Special districts are created to fill service gaps in county services. In Colorado, these districts function as local governments or political subdivisions of the state, adding a third level of government in the United States. This level includes counties, municipalities (cities and towns), school districts, and other entities such as authorities and special districts. For the Independence community, several Metropolitan Districts are in place:



- [Independence Overlay Metropolitan District](#): Oversees public amenities, enforces Covenants, and acts in lieu of an HOA.
- [Independence Metropolitan Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6](#): Metropolitan Districts dedicated to residential development.
- [Independence Water & Sanitation District](#): Provides water and sanitary sewer facilities and services to the entire community.
- [Independence Commercial District](#): Will oversee future commercial operations.

If you have any questions about our community’s districts, architectural review tips, design guidelines, or resident responsibilities related to home ownership in the Independence Community, as well as inquiries about water, landscaping, trash, etc., please contact Public Alliance, LLC at 720-213-6621 or Contact@PublicAllianceLLC.com.



INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY BLOG



Valentine's Day is just around the corner! If you're looking for ways to make the day special, Elbert County and the surrounding areas offer plenty of options to explore. Read our latest [blog post](#), where we share some of our favorite ideas that are fun and easy for Independence residents!



SAFETY REMINDERS

Please remember the Independence ponds are for irrigation, retention, and detention only and this area is restricted District property. For your safety and to help keep our neighborhood safe, please stay out of and off these ponds!

Emergency Contacts

Fire – 303-646-3800

Sheriff – 303-621-2055



JOIN US ON SOCIAL FOR THE LATEST UPDATES!



WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!

If you have questions at any time, please reach out to us!

For community-related questions:

Contact@IndependenceDenver.com

For resident-related events:

Kristin@IndependenceDenver.com

For District-related questions (water, landscaping, etc.):

Public Alliance Main Number: 720-213-6621

Email: Contact@PublicAllianceLLC.com



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