

BANNING LEWIS RANCH

MAGAZINE



DEVELOPER'S UPDATE PG. 4

BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY PG. 10

6 WAYS TO ENJOY COS PG. 14



BANNING LEWIS RANCHSM
AN OAKWOOD HOMES COMMUNITY

A place for life's moments.

Issue 20 | Spring 2021

PICK YOUR NEIGHBOR & RECEIVE \$500*

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55+ Active Adult

THE RETREAT

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FIND YOUR STORY

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Treasure Davis and her team were able to pick up 70 trees in Banning Lewis Ranch and partnered with BLR Boy Scout Troop 228 to earn a donation for each tree dropped off. From the Treasure Davis Team: "We love this annual tradition and it is another reason many of our team members call Banning Lewis Ranch home!"



BANNING LEWIS RANCHSM
AN OAKWOOD HOMES COMMUNITY

Contact BLR Magazine

If you have an idea for BLR Magazine, wish to contribute an article, or advertise in upcoming issues of the magazine, please contact marketing@banninglewisranch.com.
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BY **THOMAS GARMONG**
Division President – Colorado Springs, Oakwood Homes and Banning Lewis Ranch

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MORE REASONS TO DANCE IN THE RAIN!

Spring is here and what better way to celebrate the vibrancy of our great community than by exploring our now 75+ acres of parks, trails and open space! Oakwood Homes received approval of an additional annex from the City of Colorado Springs that expanded the future footprint of the community as well as increased the acreage of adventurous amenities to more than 75 acres!



Speaking of trails and open space, we would like to extend a big thank you to the Banning Lewis Ranch Community Foundation for the new equipment and feature improvements made to The Ranch House and Climber's Park last year.

Additionally, multiple trail enhancement projects were completed in the Cottonwood Tree Drive common area trails.

This issue of the magazine focuses on experiences you and your families can have together – cooking in your home, visiting hot springs, and even some of the exciting things happening in the greater Colorado Springs community this year.

Plus, we are thrilled to honor the extraordinary neighbors nominated and recognized as a part of the Nominate Your Neighbor Contest in February. Thank you for demonstrating what makes the Banning Lewis Ranch community so unique and special and what has earned Banning Lewis Ranch the best-selling community for 7 years in a row!



DeDe Bolke



CONGRATULATIONS TO BANNING LEWIS RANCH ACADEMY

Congratulations to the Banning Lewis Ranch Academy for being nominated for the third year in a row as a Capturing Kid's Hearts Showcase School and for winning Bronze in

the Best of Colorado Springs in 2020. Thank you to all the teachers and staff for tirelessly working to provide a safe and quality education to the youth of our community.

This holiday season, our community really showed up to spread holiday cheer through the Light Up Your Neighborhood Holiday Lighting Contest. An amazing 54 homes officially participated in the contest while hundreds of other homes joined in the festivities by lighting their homes, donating winter clothing and participating in virtual Santa events.

And lastly, we are thrilled to have begun building The Barn, marked with a ceremonial

groundbreaking event held in March. The 10,000 sq. ft. clubhouse is expected to open fall 2021 and is available to The Retreat residents and their guests. More details can be found inside. ➡



Our specialized experience in Dermatology, Mohs Micrographic Surgery, and Cosmetic Procedures ensure patients receive the highest quality of care in a supportive environment.

Our expert providers

Christopher R. Sartori, MD, is a board-certified dermatologist with over 20 years of general dermatology experience for all ages and skin types.

Brett K. Matheson, MD, FACMS is the first fellowship-trained and board-certified Mohs Surgeon to serve Colorado Springs and the Southern Colorado community.

Tara M. Burton, PA-C, a certified physician assistant, has specialized in general dermatology and cosmetic services since 2004.

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719-574-0310

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328 S. Bonaventure Avenue, Suite 2
Trinidad, CO 81082
800-290-2478

BREAKING GROUND AND PAVING THE WAY


for a New Kind of 55+ Active Adult Lifestyle Community


In March, the members of The Retreat community celebrated an exciting milestone with the ceremonial groundbreaking of The Barn – the 10,000 sq. ft. amenity center planned to open this fall for Retreat community members and their guests. The Barn will feature a state-of-the-art fitness studio, gaming room, movement studio, entertaining kitchen, spaces for events and more. Outdoor recreation will include an outdoor beach-entry pool with lap lanes and lounging area, outdoor spa, pickleball, bocce ball, event lawn and much more to keep an active and healthy lifestyle while enjoying resort-style features in the community.

The event was free and open to the public and overall a tremendous success! Following a short program that included remarks by Michael Fraley, OakwoodLife Division President and Kelly Leid, Director of Lifestyle Operations, guests enjoyed lunch (provided by Cluckin' Chicken) and coffee (provided by Campfire Coffee) followed by tours of the grounds and amenity space.

"We are thrilled to break ground on The Barn,

the community clubhouse that will surely become a place to celebrate and build new connections sparked and strengthened by shared life stages and experiences for Retreat residents." said Michael Fraley, OakwoodLife Division President.

To learn more about opportunities for your friends and family members to become a part of The Retreat community, visit LifeAtRetreat.com. Come to life at The Retreat – an OakwoodLife community. 

 OakwoodLife prioritizes creating an environment that ignites and fans the flames of our members' life passions. At The Retreat, we strive to liberate our member residents to live an extraordinary life and pursue active, well-rounded and fulfilling purpose. What better place to do that than Colorado Springs!"



BANNING LEWIS RANCH TRULY LIT UP THE HOLIDAYS

with the Annual *Light Up Your Neighborhood Holiday Lighting Contest*



First Place - 7257 Rim Bluff Lane




Second Place - 8445 Crooked Branch Lane



Third Place - 6602 Shadow Star Drive

The Banning Lewis Ranch community sure lit up the holidays with the 2020 Light Up Your Neighborhood holiday lighting contest! We had 54 official contestants (with hundreds of additional homes decorated outside of the contest) and more than 460 community votes cast to determine the overall winners! Thank you to Oakwood Homes and the Banning Lewis Ranch Community Foundation for providing the prizes to the fan favorites.

Thank you to all the residents who decorated their homes and helped spread holiday cheer this year! In addition to lighting up the community, your winter coat and clothes donations helped warm up the community as the donations collected supported the Pikes Peak United Way winter coat and clothing drive for youth in our community. 

The Retreat

Banning Lewis Ranch



RESORT-STYLE *living...*
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A NEW 55+ ACTIVE ADULT COMMUNITY

The first true active adult community in Colorado Springs.
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COME TO LIFE WITH:

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- Pickleball • Bocce Ball • Fitness Center • Entertaining Kitchen
- Community Lifestyle Director Offering Daily Activities
- Main Floor Living Homes • Low Maintenance Yards & Exteriors


OAKWOOD *Life*
COME TO LIFE

CLASSIC
HOMES

The Retreat

Banning Lewis Ranch



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

The MacDonalds: Troy, Jennifer, Raegan and Addi



Classic 55+ Living Comes to Life in The Retreat at Banning Lewis Ranch

The Retreat, a 55 and better age-restricted community will be a part of the award-winning master planned community. This special and private "retreat" will boast its very own private 10,000 sq. ft. amenity center, outdoor pool and much more to keep an active and healthy lifestyle while enjoying resort-style features in the community.

Classic Homes
The Retreat at Banning Lewis Ranch
New Homes from the \$400s

THINK 55+ RESORT STYLE-LIVING

- ☐ *8 Distinct Ranch-style Home Design with Main Level Living*
- ☐ *Exclusive 55+ Clubhouse & Amenity Center, Pool, Bocce Ball Courts, Pickle Ball Courts, Outdoor Amphitheater & Pavilion*
- ☐ *Parks & Walking Trails*

Featured Models:
The Celebration and **The Sundance**
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Colorado Springs, CO 80927
(719) 452-8696



ClassicHomes.com



What street do you live on?

Crooked Branch Lane

Who built your home?

Classic Homes

How long have you lived in Banning Lewis Ranch?

Almost two years

Why did you choose to live in BLR and what do you enjoy most about the community?

We really liked the quality of homes and the variety of styles offered here. Banning Lewis Ranch is also in a great location for us; close to just about everything you'd want. And I think it goes without saying, but the amenities in the neighborhood are amazing!

Favorite activities/hobbies?

We really enjoy being outdoors, especially in a community like Banning Lewis Ranch where there are so many trails and parks. We love to go on hikes, bike rides, jumping on our trampoline, grilling out and roasting s'mores over the back yard fire pit. During the summer we also spend a lot of time at the pool, water park and dog park.

Favorite neighborhood restaurants?

Some of our favorites are the Rib & Chop House and Fuzzy's. A little further away from the neighborhood, we enjoy Rudy's and Sherpa Garden.

Favorite Sports:

Our family primarily follows football, but we also really enjoy going to almost any sporting event in person.

Favorite Sports Teams:

We are a house divided! We are mostly Packers fans, but there is one wayward Bears fan as well.

Favorite family dinner menus:

Anything on the grill. We love to cook out!

How are you involved in the community?

Our family has really enjoyed the Peak and T'ween nights, cooking classes, art classes, holiday lights contest, food trucks and farmers market. There always seems to be something fun and new to do!

Tell us about your pets:

We have a 15-year-old indoor cat named Ben who is the laziest thing on the planet. We added a puppy to our family in January, a goldendoodle named Moose. We also have to guinea pigs named Teacup and Fluffball.

What are your favorite spring traditions?

On Mother's Day, we like to go to a local nursery and pick out flowers and plants to spruce up the yard for the season. Our kids also love biking through the neighborhood looking for a good deal during the neighborhood garage sale. 🍷





SPRINGTIME UPDATES

Banning Lewis Ranch Academy Is Nominated Again!

For the third year in a row, BLRA has been nominated for Capturing Kid's Hearts Showcase School. Teachers, students and staff use Capturing Kids' Hearts tools to help develop trusting relationships. One of these tools is the EXCEL model, which stands for Engage, Explore, Communicate, Empower, and Launch. We use this as a template for our interactions, conversations and emails. It creates the amazing culture we are all so proud to be a part of!

What's been happening at BLRA!

BLRA Middle School basketball teams received the High School experience in February with music, player introductions, play-by-play announcing, intermission performances and high school players cheering them on. Talk about Banning together! Thank you to the coaches and athletic department for making BLRA Middle School the place to play!

BLRA is excited to announce the Class of 2021 will hold the school's first graduation ceremony on the football field on May 28, 2021. More details such as time, how many family members can attend, etc. will be available soon. Keep an eye out for many memorable events to take place this spring that will start traditions for years to come. 📅

Congratulations to the elementary students and staff at Banning Lewis Ranch Academy for earning the BRONZE in Best of Colorado Springs 2021!

NOW ENROLLING



Banning Lewis Academy is a multi-campus, tuition-free, public charter school located in Colorado Springs, Colorado serving students in grades K-12.
ENROLL TODAY!

Banning Lewis Academy is **THE SCHOOL OF CHOICE**, nestled in the heart of Banning Lewis Ranch.

Since opening our doors in 2006, we have provided a safe, secure, and successful learning environment for our students.



www.blracademy.org
719-638-3040

2021-2022 EVENT CALENDAR

July 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

 	School Closed - New Teachers Report
 	School Closed - All Teachers Report
 	1st day of Semester
 	Assessment Day
 	Student Led Conferences

July	
4	Independence Day
23	School Closed - New Teachers Report
26-30	School Closed - All Teachers Report

August	
2	Kindergarten/6th Grade/9th Grade Orientation
	Kindergarten - 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
	6th and 9th Grade - 7:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
3	All Students Report
12	BLRA Assessment Days
13	BLRA Assessment Days

September	
3	Teacher Inservice - No Students Report
6	School Closed - Labor Day
17	eLearning Day - No Students Report

October	
1	End of First Quarter
8	eLearning Day - No Students Report
14	Early Dismissal
14	Student Led Conferences
15	No School - Student Led Conferences
18-22	School Closed - Fall Break

November	
12	eLearning Day - No Students Report
22-26	School Closed - Thanksgiving Break

December	
16	Early Dismissal/End Second Quarter
17-31	School Closed - Winter Break
TBD	8th PSAT/ eLearning

January 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

January	
3	BLPA/BLRA Assessment Day - No Students in Session
4	School Closed - All Teachers Report
5	All Students Report
14	eLearning Day
17	School Closed - MLK Jr. Day

February	
18	eLearning Day - No Students Report
21	School Closed - Presidents' Day

March	
4	End of Third Quarter
11	eLearning Day - No Students Report
14	Early Dismissal
18	Student Led Conferennces
18	No School - Student Led Conferences
21-25	School Closed -Spring Break

April	
22	eLearning Day
TBD	HS SAT/MS eLearning

May	
13	eLearning Day
20	Last Day for Seniors
25	8th Grade Promotion
25	Kindergarten and 5th Promotion
26	End of 4th Quarter/Last Day of School
27	Teachers Report/HS Graduation
30	School Closed - Memorial Day

June	
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Revised 17 November 2020
Approved 15 December 2020



WE ARE EXCITED FOR SPRING AND ENJOYING HAVING STUDENTS BACK IN THE BUILDING!

IVES, like all schools, has been juggling the transitions between e-learning, in-person learning and quarantining due to the pandemic. There does seem to be a decrease in the number of classes and staff that need to learn from home as a safety precaution, and many staff members have had their first round of the vaccine. This and the increased number of guest teachers has increased the stability of in-person learning.

Having students in the building at IVES makes the building come alive! IVES continues to follow safety protocols of cohorting, cleaning, hand washing and mask wearing. We also are capitalizing on opportunities for students to have a more "normal" learning experience, like attending art, music, drama and movement in the studio instead of on a cart, eating lunch again in the gallery instead of classrooms, visiting the library and inviting special presenters into IVES. In January, fifth grade students participated in STEM activities with Starbase, a program out of Peterson Air

Force Base. Students are excited to continue to explore learning through art forms at IVES. As local conditions improve, so will opportunities at IVES.

In our second year, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Inspiration View Elementary School PTO. PTO's first events were to supply dinner for staff during parent teacher conferences and sponsor Coffee with the Principal. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to support your local district elementary school! We are looking forward to the day when we can invite the community back into the building.

At IVES, we are about developing the talents and passions of all students. As a Kennedy Center Partners in Education school with an arts integrated approach, IVES has a unique opportunity for D49 students to learn and demonstrate knowledge of the standards through an art form. As your district elementary school, registration is always open! Planning is happening now for the 2021- 2022 School Year. IVES encourages families new to the neighborhood to register early so that our growing school is prepared for the 2021- 2022 school year. 📞



Through these projects fifth grade students explored individuality and learned about each other while learning about Pop Art.



Second grade insect habitats group mural displaying insect habitats and various stages of insect life cycles.



Kindergarten students show their understanding of the different seasons through painting.

COVINGTON HOMES

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WE STAND APART

Award Winning Homes, Creative Architecture & Interior Design, Fabulous Features, Sustainable Building practices, Attention to Detail, and Outstanding Craftsmanship are just a few of the benefits of owning a Covington Home. At Covington Homes we are focused on investing in our community, building quality homes at a practical price, and maintaining the highest level of customer service. That is why Covington Homes has decided to take the lead in responsible and efficient building.

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Banning Lewis Ranch Model Home

6949 Compass Bend Dr., 80927
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Stonebridge at Meridian Ranch Model Home

10154 Boulder Ridge Dr., 80831
Offering Main Level Living, from the Low 300's
719-205-6110 or 719-355-4019

Wolf Ranch Daybreak/Highline Model Home

9691 Fresh Air Drive, 80924
Main level living, Ranch, or 2 Story from the High 300's
719-433-9012 or 719-355-0012

Gardens at North Carefree Model Home

3630 Vineyard Circle, 80922
Great Floorplans from the Mid 300's
719-639-0231 or 719-749-1733

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SIX WAYS TO ENJOY COLORADO SPRINGS THIS YEAR

After one of the toughest years our community has experienced, we are on the road to recovery. It's going to take some time, but we have much to look forward to this year that will help our destination reach the summit. Whether you're new to town, have lived here your whole life or want some ideas for when friends and family are visiting, here are a handful of the incredible updates rolling into the Pikes Peak Region.

BY VISIT COS

1 Book a flight out of COS on Southwest Airlines

Southwest Airlines is now offering 13 direct flights per day out of the Colorado Springs Airport. With even more flight and fare options for inbound and outbound travel, the days of driving all the way to Denver to catch a flight are behind us. Direct routes include Chicago (Midway), Dallas (Love Field), Denver, Las Vegas and Phoenix, with plenty of connections at those locations.

2 Tour up America's Mountain on the Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway

Since 2017, the Cog Railway has been closed and construction has been in progress. This May, the beloved, historic attraction reopens with a new track, depot and cog. We've been climbing to the top of the peak since 1891, and the new Cog Railway offers visitors the opportunity to experience the summit like never before. The train ride spans nine miles up to the summit through Pike National Forest, moving above the timberline and enjoying stories of historical points along the way.

3 Indulge in a donut (or five) at 14,115 feet at the new Pikes Peak Summit Visitor Center

There's nothing more iconic to Colorado Springs than Pikes Peak. One of the most accessible summits in the country, visitors can enjoy an entirely fresh summit experience

this summer. The new Visitor Center features interpretive exhibits, a gift shop, café and of course, the world-famous summit donuts. The building is striving to become the first Living Building Challenge-certified project in Colorado featuring net zero energy, net zero waste and net zero water consumption.

4 Challenge yourself to 50K for 50 Years of El Paso County Parks

This year, El Paso County Parks turns 50! EPC Parks is encouraging supporters to hike, walk or bike 50K this year across seven parks through the county. Trails include Paint Mines Interpretive Park, Homestead Ranch Regional Park, Palmer Divide Trail, Black Forest Regional Park, Jones Park, Pinerias Open Space and Kane Ranch Open Space.

5 Catch a game at Weidner Field and the Robson Arena

Two City for Champions projects, downtown stadium Weidner Field and the Ed Robson Arena, will open later this year. Get tickets to see the Switchbacks FC soccer team play at Weidner Field and the Colorado College Tiger Hockey team play at Robson Arena.

6 Celebrate 150 years of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs is celebrating the city's rich history all year long for its sesquicentennial. Take friends and family to the new COS@150 exhibit at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, attend the Beards, Bonnets and Brews Fest in June and look out for a Sesquicentennial Gala in July. ➡

POWERS PET EMERGENCY AND SPECIALTY

BY MALIA DUBUC
Banning Lewis Ranch Resident



With more than 75 acres of parks, trails and open space and the multiple dog parks throughout the community, Banning Lewis Ranch is home to active two-legged and four-legged friends alike!

Did you know Banning Lewis Ranch is only three miles from an American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) accredited hospital? Powers Pet Emergency and Specialty is one of only 15% of small-animal hospitals in the U.S. and Canada to have earned this prestigious distinction, which required rigorous on-site evaluation every three years to maintain this status. Unlike human hospitals, not all animal hospitals are required to be accredited by the AAHA to this degree. Powers Pet Emergency and Specialty pursued the stringent AAHA accreditation process because they hold themselves to a higher standard to deliver the highest quality veterinary care.

As Colorado Springs' leading 24/7 veterinary emergency and specialty hospital, Powers Pet Emergency and Specialty provides a standard of care you'll be hard-pressed to find anywhere else in the region. From expert emergency and critical care 24 hours a day, advanced care by board-certified specialists in surgery, internal medicine, neurology/neurosurgery, rehabilitation, radioiodine therapy and diagnostic imaging, Powers is a

trusted one-stop partner for you, your pet and primary care veterinarians in the region.

What sets Powers apart is their focus on collaboration.

Powers veterinarians are part of a single, integrated team and, as a result, every patient benefits from this multidisciplinary expertise—a tremendous advantage in diagnosing and treating complex cases. This unified, cohesive approach promotes seamless, coordinated treatment across the entire practice. It fosters communication and timely sharing of information and translates into better care and service for your pet. ➡

Malia Dubuc is a Banning Lewis Ranch resident and an employee at Powers Pet Emergency and Specialty. She started the Banning Lewis Ranch Pet People Facebook page, and serves the community with dog grooming services on her days off. As a pet parent in our community, Malia is proud to have a fully capable, 24-hour pet ER less than three miles away that can handle any pet emergency. Malia's favorite part of being a Banning Lewis Ranch dog owner is splashing in the Vista Water Park on the last day of the season with her pups!



COVINGTON HOMES

BUILDING COMMUNITY



COVINGTON HOMES CARES

Since its founding in 2008, Covington Homes continues to grow and is among the top builders in Colorado Springs and El Paso County. The Covington Team delivers a personal home buying experience, provides future homeowners with floor plans for their unique lifestyles, pays attention to details, and builds Energy Smart. "We choose designs that fit the feel of the neighborhoods – exteriors that are welcoming and distinctly different and interiors that are both practical and beautiful. We choose to build in communities that offer good value, convenient locations and a healthy lifestyle. We are small enough to listen, but big enough to deliver - this provides our buyers with an exceptional home building experience and the ability to personalize their home, while having the peace of mind that comes with knowing that they have a better built home."

Service and caring for others has always been a cornerstone of Covington Homes' culture. "We have made a long term commitment to partner with St Jude Children's Research Hospital,



and we are also proud partners of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the Pikes Peak region and Peak Vista Community Health Centers, among other charities". In 2015 Covington Homes was chosen as the St Jude Dream Home Builder for Southern Colorado and has been building one every year ever since. This is the sixth year that Covington Homes is building the St. Jude Dream Home in Colorado Springs with a goal to raise a million dollars this year alone and to build the home at zero cost again which means that all of the proceeds from ticket sales of the Dream Home go directly to St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The 2021 Dream Home is a beautiful home located in Banning Lewis Ranch. One story home with finished basement, ranch plan - 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 car garage, 3441 total sq ft. Estimated value \$650,000. The home will feature a Gourmet kitchen with Bosh stainless steel gas appliances, Brizo faucets and accessories, Shaw flooring and tile and so much more! This home will be an energy efficient home with HERS rating, and will include Air Conditioning and Trane HVAC system. A Fully landscaped yard with backyard fence is also included. Tickets will go on sale April 22, 2021. For more information about the St Jude Dream Home, visit www.dreamhome.org.

Covington Homes has a legacy of quality that is shown in traditional and modern designs found at Meridian Ranch, Banning Lewis Ranch, Wolf Ranch, and now also at The Gardens at North Carefree. We invite you to experience the Covington Homes difference by visiting one of their model homes or go online at www.CovingtonHomesco.com.



719-448-5000 | 719-205-5248



Proud Builder
St. Jude Dream Home
Giveaway

COVINGTON HOMES
We Stand Apart
www.covingtonhomesco.com

SOME HOT DESTINATIONS

BY LINDA DUVAL

Soak up Some Relaxation
in the Mountains

After being trapped indoors all winter, doesn't a good soak in a hot springs pool sound like heaven? If so, there are plenty of family-friendly places in Colorado to do just that. Some are close enough so that you can make a day trip out of it. Or go crazy and book a room for a night and do a two-day getaway.

Here are a couple of viable choices:

Mount Princeton Hot Springs

Once a very rustic venue, Mount Princeton (est. 1879) has been transformed in recent years into a true resort destination with many amazing amenities. Today, there are three large pools, a full spa, various lodging options, a restaurant and so much more. And, yes, you still can indulge in the natural creek-side hot springs.

There's an exercise pool that's warm but not too hot and great for swimming. The soaking pool is warmer and open to all guests. The relaxation pool is the hottest and great for ... well, just relaxing. It's open only to overnight guests. The primitive creek-side hot springs aren't recommended in spring because the water is high and the thermal benefits are overcome by runoff, says marketing director Scott Peterson.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, there is an Upper Pool that's also open. You can float down a lazy river or shoot down a 400-foot water slide. You also can ride water bikes or take part in a water exercise or yoga class.

Spring is a good time to visit the hot springs resort, Peterson says. It's less busy than the summer or fall. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the resort can only allow so many visitors at a time. If you want to guarantee getting in on a day visit, Peterson advises getting there at 9am when they open. They don't take reservations, so it's first-come-first-served. Weekdays also are cheaper, \$20 per person instead of \$25 on weekends. They also have children and senior rates.

Situated just south of Buena Vista in Chalk Creek Canyon, the resort is about a 2-hour drive from Colorado Springs. For more information, call 719-395-2447 or visit mtprinceton.com.

Cottonwood Hot Springs

Also near Buena Vista, these springs were used for centuries by the Ute Indians as a spiritual gathering area. Today, the laid-back resort and rustic hot springs and lodging offers an affordable getaway for families on a budget.

The geothermal, hot mineral springs are entirely fed by gravity and known for their therapeutic and medicinal benefits. There are several natural rock-lined pools of varying sizes and temperatures.

If you want to keep the rustic approach, you can rent out a tent campsite, or opt for a rustic cabin with a private hot springs pool or a lodge room. There's also a women's-only dormitory and some larger vacation rentals.

Though it's a family-friendly hot springs, they ask

that children be with an adult at all times and that youngsters vacate the soaking pool area at 6pm. There's no lifeguard on duty.

Current COVID-19 restrictions apply and limit the number of guests at a given time. It's best to arrive early in the day to get a spot.

Besides mineral water pools, there is a dry sauna (included) and optional spa services include wraps, scrubs, facials and massage. The spa is open from 7am to midnight every day. An adult day pass is \$20 weekdays and \$24 weekends and holidays, with children's rates available. For more information, call 719-395-6434 or visit cottonwood-hot-springs.com.

They've just added a reservation capability.

NOTE: In both places, swimsuits are required at all times and it's a good idea to bring your own towel.

BLR Hiking Club was founded in 2016 to engage residents in the Banning Lewis Ranch community who wish to visit and explore the various wilderness areas in and around Colorado Springs. From casual hikers to advanced backpackers, the club strives to create a forum for people to meet and explore together. Julissa Vega and BLR Hiking Club leaders have led both day hikes and overnight trips nearly every weekend throughout the year, regardless of weather and season! The club cares deeply about the members' successes and enjoyment and is proud to carry on the tradition, 4 ½ years running.



Notable Accomplishments to Date

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Now You're Cooking!

Kids can explore a new skill in the kitchen

BY LINDA DUVAL

As much time as you spend with your kids these days, wouldn't you like to do something with them that is both creative and educational? Not to mention fun and, well, yummy? This is as good a time as any to teach your children the joy of cooking.

Every child should learn to make the basics so they don't starve to death or subsist on fast food once they leave home. If you make it fun, they'll want to learn more.

The first thing to emphasize is safety. Have them wash their hands, tie their hair back if it's long, roll up sleeves or get any distracting clothing out of the way and put on an apron (keeps clothes clean and makes them feel like they're really in the role.).

Safety first

Teach them the importance of not having pot handles sticking out from the stove. They can be bumped or catch on clothing and dump a pan full of something scalding onto your front or feet! Have pot holders handy; kitchen towels are a poor substitute. Warn them not to lean into a hot oven to look at something, especially if they wear glasses. Always pull the rack out to you, not the other way around!

Safety tips can be found online on various sites, and it's a good idea to read them to your kids before you start.

That out of the way, what should you cook?

Start with easy stuff, perhaps cold foods, such as sandwiches and salads. Get creative! You might be surprised at how eagerly children will eat a salad when they've made it themselves.



Now for the hot stuff

Start simple, with scrambled eggs, grilled cheese sandwiches or maybe a BLT; they only have to cook the bacon and that can be done safely in the microwave, if they're not ready for the big skillet.

Kids love hot dogs, so maybe let them start with pigs in a blanket. Remember those childhood favorites where you wrapped croissant dough triangles around a hot dog, stuffed with a piece of cheese, and baked them in the oven?

At some point, they'll need to use a knife. There are some excellent videos online about teaching knife skills to kids. Watch them together and let them practice under supervision.

Kids love to make desserts

They've probably made s'mores at some point, and there are lots of no-bake cookie recipes online. To make life easy, start with a mix. A brownie, cookie, muffin or cake mix is easy enough for almost any beginner. This teaches them to follow directions and about measurements. Then let them get creative: add some favorite nuts or mini chips to a brownie mix, some fresh diced banana to a muffin mix, and so on. Maybe have fun with the frosting and let them add sprinkles or other colorful decorations.

The trick is to let them choose what they want to cook and make sure it's achievable, so they gain confidence and will continue to want to do it. Invest in a few kids' cookbooks and let them own the skill. Who knows? You might be surprised to find you have a budding chef in the family! 📱

HOW ABOUT A POT OF CHILI? HERE'S AN EASY RECIPE!

- » 1 pound ground beef or turkey
- » 1 15-ounce can of diced tomatoes
- » 1 15-ounce can chili beans or black beans with chili spices
- » 2 teaspoons chili powder
- » 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- » Salt to taste

Brown beef or turkey in a deep skillet until liquid evaporates. Add tomatoes, beans and spices. Stir well. Taste before adding salt – some brands of tomatoes and beans already have a lot. Simmer on low heat, covered, for 25-30 minutes, stirring occasionally. If it gets too thick, add a little water to loosen. Serve with tortillas or crackers. Or put it on hot dogs. Serves 6.

Thank you all for being GREAT NEIGHBORS!

This past year was challenging in many ways and we know each of you faced (and continue to face) obstacles daily. THANK YOU for your steadfast support of one another throughout all of 2020 and what the year threw at you. As you know, Banning Lewis Ranch neighbors are unique and generous and in February, you shared just how wonderful your neighbors are by participating in the Nominate Your Neighbor contest!

We received many beautiful and truly inspiring nominations that, once again, revealed what makes Banning Lewis so special. We thank all the nominating neighbors who took time to recognize who really went above and beyond to make our community better!



Jason Carey



Bolke Family



Reese Family

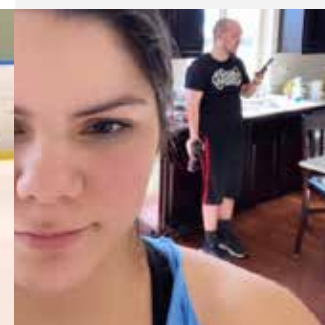
Here are the top four finalists. Thank you all for being great neighbors! Contest winner received \$500 cash and a gift basket courtesy of Oakwood Homes and iHeartRadio.

- DeDe Bolke (Horizon Wood Lane) – WINNER
- Jason Carey (Cottonwood Tree Dr.)
- Heather Orr (Maple Stone Ln.)
- Chessa Reese (Lindquist Court)

“DeDe and her family are amazing neighbors and now friends like family! They always help anyone in need, not just us! They shovel snow for neighbors, collect food for the Boy Scouts, they are involved in neighborhood business and activities. They share from their amazing garden and would help in a heartbeat. She definitely deserves this! She’s a super star, a super amazing mom and she needs a cape!” – Rosie Thompson

Also nominated were:

- Herb & Judy Frazier (Pear Leaf Ct.)
- Gary & Amy Cunninghame (Crooked Branch Lane)
- Laura Gehant (Rock Elm)
- Linda Scheft (John Muir Trail)
- Todd Blum (Tranquil Knoll Lane)
- Brian Danial (Monterey Pine Loop)
- Justina Yvonne Baker (John Muir Trail)



Congratulations to the participants of the YMCA Winter Wellness Challenge that ran from November 27 to December 31! The challenge promoted the overall well-being of the community during the holiday season by helping the residents stay motivated to exercise. Points were awarded for each workout completed and accrued toward raffle tickets. The YMCA personal trainer utilized Facebook and email to communicate, motivate, offer exercise tips and offer live workouts to the participants. A live Facebook drawing was held on January 5 to announce the raffle winners. Congratulations Michelle Digman, Crystal Wong, Danielle Kaczor and Ursula Price. Special shout out to Nicolas and Cassandra Burns for completing the most workouts throughout the challenge!

Over the holiday season, the YMCA also hosted several virtual “Cookies with Santa” events that were a huge success – more than 90 families participated! Santa was live on Zoom with the children of BLR singing Christmas carols, reading stories, children’s letters and answering their questions.

The Ranch House continues to operate following state guidelines for COVID-19. We have been able to slowly increase capacity for the weight and cardio rooms and fitness classes. All other activities at the Ranch House are on hold but we are starting to look ahead to slowly add back our programs.

Over spring break, the YMCA, in partnership with Banning Lewis Ranch Community Foundation, hosted Spring Break Art Camp, a three-day paint and draw art class during spring break inspired by all things springing to life! Participants learned to draw from still life and from their imaginations through guided painting lessons. 🎨



SAVE THE DATE

Community Pools Opening Memorial Day Weekend

Village 1 Pool Hours: May 28 - September 6, 2021

Sunday-Saturday

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Adult Lap Swim

10:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Open Swim

Vista Water Park Hours May 28 – June 5, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 7 p.m. every day

June 6 – August 7, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

August 8 – September 6, 2021

Monday – Friday

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

All pools will be open until 8 p.m. on July 4th.

On Labor Day, the pools will close at 6 p.m.



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Northtree Ranch House

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Banning Lewis Ranch Metropolitan District

Districts 1-7
Josh Miller – District Manager
c/o Clifton Larson Allen
111 S. Tejon Street, Suite 705
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone: 719-284-7226
Fax: 719-473-3630
Email: Josh.miller@CLAconnect.com
Billing Inquiries:
Phone: 303-265-7949
Email: gvwutil@claconnect.com

Trash and Recycling Services

Home Builders Services
Phone: 720-547-8600
Service Day: Friday
hbstrash.com

Covenant Control and Enforcement

Elaine Anderson, MSI
8610 Explorer Drive Suite 130,
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
Phone: 719-260-4548
Fax: 719-578-5611
banninglewistranch@msiho.com
Email: CPilato@msiho.com

Design Review Committee

Please submit plans to:
Banning Lewis Ranch
Metropolitan District #1
8390 E. Crescent Parkway, Suite 600
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Ranch House Access Card

Pick up your access card for the Ranch House Recreation Center at the Ranch House Call (719) 522-2432 for more information.

Northtree Ranch House Recreation Center amenities are included as part of the Banning Lewis Ranch Metro District Operating Fee.

Utilities

Gas/Electricity/Utilities/Water
Colorado Springs Utilities
csu.org

Trash & Recycling Service

Home Builders Services is included as part of your Metro District Operating Fee
(720) 547-8600

Key Pickup for Mail Service

United States Postal Service
usps.com
(719) 638-1781

Mailbox keys can be picked up at the Ranch House.

Healthcare

Penrose St. Francis Medical
penrosetstfrancis.org

Memorial Hospital Central
memorialhealthsystem.com

Memorial Hospital North
memorialhealthsystem.com

Colorado Springs
Children's Hospital
mhchildren.com

Shopping

First and Main Town Center
firstandmaintowncenter.com

Shops at Briargate
thepromenadeshopsatbriargate.com

Powers Peak Center
at Woodmen and Powers Road

Grocery Stores

King Soopers
at Stetson Hills and Powers Road

Target Super Store at Carefree
and Powers Road

Costco
at Barnes and Powers Roads

Miscellaneous

Colorado Department of Wildlife
wildlife.state.co.us

US Fish & Wildlife Service
fws.gov



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