

DEVELOPER'S UPDATE PG. 4

FALL ADVENTURE PG. 7

FOURTH OF JULY PHOTOS PG. 16



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Issue 22 | Fall 2021

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WE STAND APART

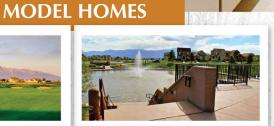
Award Winning Homes, Creative Architecture & Interior Design, Fabulous Features, Sustainable Building practices, Attention to Detail, and Outstanding Craftsmanship are just a few of the benefits of owning a Covington Home. At Covington Homes we are focused on investing in our community, building quality 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.



Banning Lewis Ranch Model Home 6949 Compass Bend Dr., 80927 Variety of Floorplans from the Mid 300's 719-287-6677 or 719-355-4019



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

. Jude Children's

Research Hospital



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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BANNING LEWIS RANCH[™]

AN OAKWOOD HOMES COMMUNITY

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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.

Banning Lewis Ranch (BLR) Magazine is the official magazine of the Banning Lewis Ranch community. BLR Magazine is published by Banning Lewis Ranch Banning Lewis Ranch may not be held responsible or liable for the business practices of advertisers, errors or omissions within this publication. Articles included in BLR Magazine reflect the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or opinions of Banning Lewis Ranch

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CONTENTS



BY THOMAS GARMONG Division President – Colorado Springs, Oakwood Homes and Banning Lewis Ranch

CONCERTS, FIREWORKS, AND PICKLEBALL... Summer at BLR Ends with a Bang!

s weather begins to turn a little cooler, we want to take a moment and look back at the sizzling summer at Banning Lewis Ranch – from fireworks to concerts to barbeques to new buildings and pickleball court openings, the Banning Lewis Ranch community fully embraced this summer.

SAVE THE DATE 18

For the annual **Great Pig Roast** on Saturday, September 18!

RSVP by September 10 to banninglewisranch.com/news-events

May kicked off the summer of live music with an exclusive pop-up acoustic concert at Vista Park with Nate Barnes. More than 150 residents enjoyed this future headliner in the comfort of our own community. Then continuing throughout the summer, many of you joined your neighbors every other Thursday night for food trucks, farmers markets and live music on the lawn enjoying the Banning Lewis Ranch summer concert series, and events supported by the Banning Lewis Ranch Community Foundation.

The 4th of July celebration was especially vibrant as the community celebrated America's Birthday with a bang. An estimated 2,500+ attendees joined in the July 4th summer concert series event and fireworks show as a part of the 4th of July Symphony on Your Porch. Thank you for sharing in such a wonderful community celebration! The community is thrilled to have a second set of pickleball courts as The Retreat held a grand opening for additional courts in August. Additionally, The Barn amenity is well underway and is expected to open to Retreat residents by the end of this year. *More details on page 19.*







GROWTH IS ON THE HORIZON

Banning Lewis Ranch will add another 1,600 homes that will start becoming available for sale by Spring 2022. **Banning Lewis Ranch** will eventually span nearly from Woodmen Road south to Stetson Hills Boulevard and from Marksheffel Road east to Highway 24. But more than just homes and roads, Banning Lewis Ranch will continue to expand its signature sense of community with a new amenity and additional parks, trails and open space.

As Banning Lewis Ranch continues to expand, we plan to include a new amenity, similar to The Barn and The Ranch House, with a pool, park, gym, community gathering space, and more. There will be another school added to the tremendous, award-winning Falcon District 49 educational

20

options available to residents: Banning Lewis Ranch Academy (K-5), Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy (6-12), and Inspiration View Elementary School (K-5). Additional commercial development will bring conveniences such as a grocery store, dining, entertainment options, and shops.

Thank you to all of the amazing Banning Lewis Ranch residents who have helped make the community not only the Best Neighborhood and Best Residential Community (Colorado Springs Business Journal) and a Best Of winner New Home Community (The Gazette) but for helping earn the recognition as the fastest-selling community in Colorado Springs for seven years running and Top 50 master planned communities in the nation. 🖷

Sir

DEVELOPER'S UPDATE



LEAF-PEEPING: FALL COLORS BECKON US TO COME OUT AND PLAY

olorado's fall color season is about as predictable as ... well, the weather.

"We've had a ton of rain this summer, so I imagine that means good colors," says Linda Groat, park ranger and program coordinator at nearby Mueller State Park. She cautiously adds: "But it depends even more on the weather at the time. If we have an early frost, it can put an end to everything overnight."

Her years of experience tell her that if the colors are good, they will be at their peak the last week in September and first week in October.

Mueller gets really nice colors, she says, especially near the north meadows, with their rolling hills and forests lined with aspens. Another prime spot is right near the entrance, where "there's a patch that always turns bright red – it's just beautiful." There's another red patch at the far end of the campgrounds.

Many places in the park have a great view of Pikes Peak, which also can put on a color show, Groat says.

"Outlook Ridge trail takes you to overlooks of the south and west and you can see all the way down the continental divide – that's a fabulous view also." she adds.

But there's lots more to do at the park besides leaf-peeping. To start, there are 44 miles of hiking trails, ranging from easy to tough. It's the most popular time of year for horseback riders, too.

There are different wildflowers in the fall – each variety has its season – and birdwatching is prime this time of year, with migrating birds like warblers heading through on their way south. Sandhill cranes have even been known to land on the park's little ponds, Groat says.

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The park staff organizes some special programs in the fall, too, including elk hikes.

"We go out at dusk and hide in the woods and watch the meadows for the elk to come out and bugle for us," she says.

It's a popular time of year for damping, so campgrounds tend to be full every weekend. Groat suggests coming during the week, when it's quiet.

On top of it all, "the weather tends to be gorgeous – 70 degrees with sunny skies and little rain," she says. "It's my favorite time of year up here."

For current programs offered at the park, visit: Colorado Parks & Wildlife - Mueller (state.co.us).

On the other hand ...

If a fall color drive is your preference, there are several to consider that aren't too far away:

Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park offers an amazing vantage point for leaf peepers and is a favorite spot for photographers. The Rocky Mountain Conservancy offers guided hikes and tours in the park.

La Veta Pass, topping out at more than 9,400 feet, on U.S. Route 160 in southern Colorado - just west of the town of La Veta – is one of the most scenic fall color drives in the state. Golden aspens mixed with dark green pines line the pass. The majestic Spanish Peaks and Sangre de Cristo Mountains flank the views of the San Luis Valley.

For more scenic drives, visit 10 Places to See Colorado's Fall Color | Colorado.com. For a current status of fall colors, visit https://rove.me/to/colorado/colorado-fall-colors.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

ALL ADVENTURE

The Retreat

RESORT-STYLE living... NOW OPEN IN COLORADO SPRINGS

A NEW 55+ ACTIVE ADULT COMMUNITY

The first true active adult community in Colorado Springs. Join the growing interest list for community details and more.

LifeAtRetreat.com

COME TO LIFE WITH:

- Over 8,000 sq. ft. Private Clubhouse Beach Entry Swimming Pool
- Pickleball
 Bocce Ball
 Fitness Center
 Entertaining Kitchen
- Community Lifestyle Director Offering Daily Activities
- Main Floor Living Homes Low Maintenance Yards & Exteriors

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS! Steve and Rosemary Langer



What street do you live on? Lochside View Who built your home? Classic

How long have you lived in **Banning Lewis Ranch?** 3 months

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

We knew we wanted to live in Colorado Springs, a homecoming for Rosemary who grew up here. Friends in far off places were having wonderful experiences in their 55+ communities so we started exploring. When we became aware of The Retreat. we liked what we saw, allowed us to build a home designed as we liked. So, here we are. We enjoy the activities supported and organized by OakwoodLife, as well

Favorite neighborhood restaurants?

OAKWOOD Life

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HOMES

as activities created and managed by people living in the community. The location is also close to Rosemary's two brothers, as an added bonus.

Favorite activities/hobbies?

Steve is enjoying Pickleball, swimming laps at the Ranch House, and recently founded a biking interests' group, which goes on weekly rides in and around BLR. Rosemary loves that the Pikes Peak Book Mobile comes once a week and plans to join the book club. Together they've enjoyed Wine Tastings, Trivia, Bingo, and jumping in on most opportunities to meet fellow "Retreat-ers."

Birdcall, Salsa Brava, and Skirted Heifer. Venturing out of the neighborhood, we'll drive 25 minutes for the best (our opinion)

Pork and Avocado Burrito in Colorado Springs, El Taco Rey.

Favorite Sports?

Steve swam competitively and follows the sport closely. Rosemary is the football fan in the family. We both like College Basketball.

Favorite Sports Teams?

Denver Broncos, Chicago Cubs

Favorite family dinner menus?

Coq au vin, beef bourguignon, vinegar splash chicken, chili (spicy hot), chicken soup (meaty), and salmon on the grill.

How are you involved in the community?

Steve leads the biking interest group, is part of the Pickleball group, and started joining Bocce Ball. If we're available, we'll join evening activities including, but not limited to wine tastings and trivia.

Tell us about your pets.

They are sadly in urns in our house, but our three cats, Emily, Kuma, and Jinx, had truly unique personalities and provided us great joy.

What are your favorite fall traditions?

Biking, pumpkin picking, and watching college football.



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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 \$500s



(719) 452-8696

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ClassicHomes.com
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Featured Models:

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								6/1Last Day for Teachers							

*Elementary School assessment days are used to assess student progress at different points in the school year. See school websites for information on schedule impacts at each campus.

*First Day	On the first day, only Kindergarten, 6 th and 9 th grade students attend. See school websites for information on schedule impacts at each campus.
Schools Closed:	Schools are closed for students, teachers and building staff. District employees work when schools are closed.
PD Days:	Professional Development days include staff training to meet requirements or enhance professional performance.
PT Conferences:	Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled each semester to facilitate collaboration and support student success.

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

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

The Celebration and The Sundance 9158 Braemore Heights Colorado Springs, CO 80927



*Pricing and availability subject to change. The Retreat at Banning Lewis Ranch is a 55+ age restricted community



The class of 2022 kicked off their Senior Year with Senior Sunrise









BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY PRINCIPAL Ms. Cassandra Prosch



Why you are excited about the 21/22 school year?

I am excited to be joining the BLA family and community! I am looking forward to getting to

Why you are excited about the 21/22 school year?

I am very hopeful that the 21/22 will allow for a return to some normalcy, and an opportunity for us to reconnect and refocus on providing the very best education we can to our students. The world has taught us a lot in the last 18 months, and one of my takeaways has been the value of human connection and in-person learning, I can't wait to see how we grow this year!

What you believe makes BLA special?

BLA is special because of the families and students that choose our school. We have

know our students and families as we kick off the new year. I am also excited to become a member of the community not only as an educational leader but as well as a neighbor. We close on our home this upcoming November!

What you believe makes BLA special/ How you view students and families that choose BLA?

BLA is special because of the sense of community, tradition, and family that is present. You can sense the true feeling of belonging upon entering the neighborhood. At BLA, we are committed to bringing highquality instruction supported by a strong community for all. Families and parents that choose BLA know that the sense of community and relationships are just as important as their child's educational needs. At BLA. we care for the whole child!

My Mission:

My mission is to create a collaborative and communitybased environment that supports educators in providing students with high-quality instruction and a desire for lifelong learning.

My goal is to meet the needs of ALL staff, students, and the community by providing a safe and welcoming place where children experience the joy of learning through engaging opportunities that will prepare them to achieve their personal best.

BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Jordan Boltz

grown with our amazing community, and despite the growth we are thriving as a school that values relationships as we simultaneously provide a rigorous world class educational experience. At BLA, we are intentional about learning who our students are, partnering with their families, and working collaboratively to strengthen our community.

How you view students and families that choose BLA?

Families that choose BLA are committed to ensuring their children receive a quality education. They are intentional about finding the very best place for their children to grow, and



hold us accountable to doing our very best work as educators. Our families are engaged with us as partners in their children's learning, and care deeply for the success of their children, their children's classmates, and our school as a whole. It is an honor to serve such dedicated parents and their children. 📵

吕 D D PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT

ENJOY SUMMER FUN WITH THE PIKES PEAK **LIBRARY DISTRICT BOOKMOBILE!**



5

BANNING LEWIS RANCH'S VISTA WATER PARK

8833 Vista Del Pico Blvd. Saturdays 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

LIBRARY

401-EHI

BANNING **LEWIS'S SUMMER** CONCERT

8833 Vista Del Pico Blvd. Thu., Aug. 12 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

66



COMMUNITY **PIG ROAST**

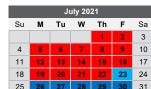
8833 Vista Del Pico Blvd. Sat., Sept. 18 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Get updated schedules, contact information, and a map of all mobile library service stops at ppld.org/mobile-library-services.



OCTOPUS DANCE PARTY

8833 Vista Del Pico Blvd. Sat., Oct. 2 • 10 a.m. Come dance under the sea with us! Twirl. jump, and jam out with family and friends as we celebrate our underwater friends - you might even see an octopus! Costumes and dressing up is encouraged.



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Independence Day 3

23 School Closed - New Teachers Report 26-30 School Closed - All Teachers Report

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No School - Student Led Conferen 15

18-22 School Closed - Fall Break

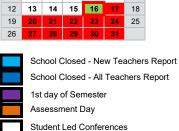
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FOURTH OF JULY AT BLR

























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The community celebrated America's Birthday with a bang as an estimated

2,500+ ATTENDEES

joined in the July 4th summer concert series and fireworks show as a part of the 4th of July Symphony on Your Porch. Thank you for sharing in such a wonderful community celebration!







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PROGRESS ON THE BARN

hile an exact grand opening date has not been announced, the development team is making every effort to deliver this amazing Clubhouse to the patient residents at The Retreat. The Covid pandemic has caused disruptions to every facet of the building industry, and OakwoodLife is doing everything in its power to navigate these disruptions and find solutions. OakwoodLife is cautiously optimistic that it will be finished by the end of the year, and the team is working tirelessly with vendors to overcome every obstacle.



PICKLEBALL COURT UPDATE

he Retreat community is thrilled to have held the grand opening for 8 new pickleball courts! These 8 courts are exclusively open to The Retreat members and their quests while the other 8 courts in Vista Park remain open to the entire Banning Lewis Ranch community. Special congratulations to Kevin Bradley and Dave Geyer,

the winners of the opening event. For details on regular programing and reservations for The Retreat courts, please contact Rachael at rschulte@myoakwoodlife.com. For the courts in Vista Park, please contact The Ranch House. See you on the court! 🖷

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Winner Dave Gever



Winner Kevin Bradley



ummer 2021 started off with a bang. The YMCA/BLR Community Foundation Memorial **U** Day BBQ on May 29 signified the start of our summer and pool openings. The Atomic Fire Balls provided live entertainment and played through the rain. The event had record participation with over 500 residents enjoying the festivities. Blue Spruce Catering grilled hot dogs and hamburgers while the YMCA hosted family fun including frisbee golf, water balloons, and ladder toss.

The YMCA was eager to offer more youth programs this summer because of last year's COVID-19 restrictions. They successfully ran four sports camps: two soccer camps, one baseball camp, and one flag football camp. The kids spent time learning the foundations of the games, the importance of teamwork, and having fun. The Y also held an art camp hosted by Vagabond Canvas. This three-day camp allowed the kids to

draw inspiration from Cubism, Impressionism, Pop, and Modern Art. The kids utilized different mediums and experimented with a variety of techniques.

Group exercise offerings increased at the Vista Park Pavilion with the addition of Zumba[™], Zumba Gold[™], and Country Line Dancing to the schedule. Water Aerobics was another great addition to the lineup. This class was held three times a week at the Ranch House pool. The class was full the entire summer and the participants were very dedicated, attending rain or shine. YMCA youth swim lessons were also extremely popular and successful; all sessions sold out within a few weeks of opening.

Lastly, the YMCA and the BLR Community Foundation partnered with the Vibes Baseball Club to offer the residents an affordable evening out at the ballpark. The package offered residents a ticket, parking, and a meal voucher for \$4 per person. It was a great deal for a great night!

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BANNING LEWIS RANCH CONTACTS

Northtree Ranch House

6885 Vista del Pico Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80927 Phone: 719-522-2432 Fax: 719-522-2433

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: gwvutil@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 banninglewisranch@msihoa.com Email: CPilato@msihoa.com

Design Review Committee

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

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

usps.com

Healthcare Penrose St. Francis Medical penrosestfrancis.org

Memorial Hospital North memorialhealthsystem.com



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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.

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 (719) 638-1781

Mailbox keys can be picked up at the Ranch House.

Memorial Hospital Central 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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