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DEVELOPER'S UPDATE PG. 4

BUENA VISTA PG. 12

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OAKWOOD Life









FIND YOUR STORY -

DEVELOPER'S UPDATE
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BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY
BUENA VISTA GETAWAY
YMCA UPDATES
YARD DEBRIS
DIRECTORY & CONTACTS
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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

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BANNING LEWIS RANCH SUMMER

s summer comes to an end, we reflect on all the wonderful reasons to live in Banning Lewis Ranch!

Our community market continues to grow and expand with vendors of all types. We're excited to now add a produce vendor to our regular roster of local foods, crafts, and small businesses! Our community includes entrepreneurs of every size, product line, and age, and we're grateful for the participation by our local community members. Thanks to everyone who participated this year, and we hope to see you back again next year!

While afternoon thunderstorms certainly presented challenges, we completed a successful summer concert season featuring acts from all music genres. From rock to dance music to country and top hits, our summer concert series continued to

captivate the community. Thousands came out on July 4th to enjoy gorgeous weather, delicious food trucks, high energy live music with WireWood Station, and the best fireworks display in the region, courtesy of a partnership with Colorado Springs Sports Corporation. Leading into the Labor Day weekend, we were treated to a sneak preview of the regionally-recognized Labor Day Liftoff event with the Aloft Balloon launch in our own backyards.

We live in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the Pikes Peak region, and Landscaping Endeavors, with their dedicated landscape maintenance team, continue to diligently work to ensure that our open spaces and streetscapes remain beautiful and wellmaintained. We recognize our community spaces are a key part of what makes Banning Lewis Ranch such a vibrant place to live, and we are committed to investing in our parks and open spaces.

Sod replacement has begun in residential areas where the District is responsible for landscaping maintenance. Native re-seeding efforts will commence in identified areas throughout Village 1 and Village 2 East/West. Additionally, mulch installation has been approved for several areas within Village 1 and Village 2 East/West. Ongoing tree removal and replacement will continue across Banning Lewis Ranch over the coming weeks. The District has also greenlighted a large-scale plant material replacement project in both common areas and residential front yards under its care. Soon the leaves will begin to fly, and winterization will begin for common-area sprinkler systems. Please keep us apprised if you see any broken sprinkler heads or other concerns on common area landscaping. We appreciate that our neighbors are our eyes and ears in the community.

WELCOME TO FALL!







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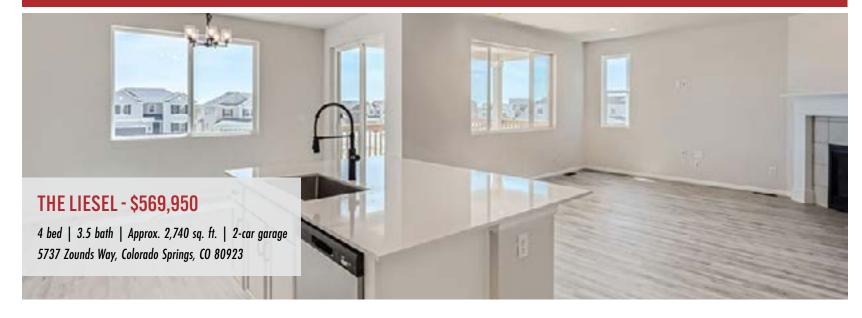
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NOTABLE NEIGHBORS

BANNING LEWIS RANCH NEIGHBORS ARE ACTIVE SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS. MEET THREE OF OUR NOTABLE SMALL BUSINESS OWNER NEIGHBORS.

MOLLY TUAONE

Molly Tuaone owns Urbane Collective. Located at 7676 Dublin Blvd, Urbane Collective is a curated women's boutique offering clothing sizes S-3XL, plants, and locally made gifts. Additionally, there is a medical spa in the building that offers facials and spa services.

Reach Urbane Collective on Facebook at **urbanecollectivellc** and Instagram @urbanecollectivellc



A West Stop





KATIE MAGUIRE

Neighbor Katie Maguire owns Revival Therapy Services, a full-service, multi-practitioner therapy practice. They specialize in empowering clients to meet the many challenges encountered in life. Their staff is highly trained in several therapeutic techniques, so they are able to tailor a plan for each client's specific needs and circumstances.

Reach them at revivaltherapyservices.com



CARRIE RICHARDSON

If you own a Covington home, or ever visited the Covington models, you may remember Carrie Richardson. Since leaving Covington, Carrie has gotten her certification as a Life Mastery Consultant. She works with folks that are at a crossroads, feel stuck, or know there is something more for them. She works to help clients find their true purpose and direction to help them create a life they love living. She plans to specialize in working with empty nesters who find themselves raising their grandkids or a relative's child/ren on a full-time basis. Carrie looks forward to starting a podcast called "In The Drop Off Lane AGAIN."

Carrie can be reached at carrie@createyourbestlifecoaching.com

ADULT SOFTBALL TEAMS

The Banning Lewis Ranch Adult softball teams wrapped up our 3rd year of playing in the city's recreational softball league. Our COED team finished the summer with a record of 7-9 and the men's team finished with a record of 8-8. Despite not winning any trophies, both teams had a great time making new neighborhood friends, getting some exercise and having fun!



If you'd like to share the big news in your life – new family members, weddings, babies, businesses, promotions, please email details to madwomanmarketing@comcast.net.®

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Preparatory Academy LEARNS & PLAYS





By prioritizing staff wellness, BLA ensures that educators are well-supported in their roles, which in turn enhances the quality of education and sets a positive example for students.

Another exciting development for BLA is being able to start the year with the athletic field, designed to bring the excitement of Friday Night Lights to the school's sports program. This field will host football & soccer games, track and field events, and other school-related activities, fostering community spirit and school pride.





Hannah Ruffli, BLA's new wellness coordinator, wholeheartedly believes that "prioritizing wellness contributes to a more effective educational environment, benefiting everyone." With continued support from families and community partnerships, BLA is prepared to uphold its tradition of excellence and holistic development, setting a high standard for schools in the region.



PRIORITIZING WELLNESS CONTRIBUTES TO A MORE EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT, BENEFITING EVERYONE.





anning Lewis Academy (BLA), a cornerstone of educational excellence in Colorado Springs, is enhancing its commitment to wellness and community engagement with a series of innovative developments. These initiatives underscore BLA's dedication to creating a supportive and wellrounded environment for both students and staff.

A recent achievement is the unveiling of a new playground, generously funded by the BLR Schools Foundation. This playground represents a significant investment in the physical and emotional well-being of BLA's elementary school

A RECENT ACHIEVEMENT IS THE UNVEILING OF A NEW PLAYGROUND, GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY THE BLR SCHOOLS FOUNDATION.

students. Designed for inclusiveness, it offers children a space to engage in imaginative play and physical activity, promoting healthy development and social interaction.

BLA is also introducing new traditions to support holistic student development. This year, the school launched a retreat program for 9th and 5th graders, held at the Ponderosa Retreat Center. These retreats aim to help students transition smoothly into their new school stages—middle school and high school. For 5th graders, the retreat provides a bridge to middle school, while for 9th graders, it offers a chance to connect with peers and mentors. This initiative reflects BLA's commitment to fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Understanding the importance of staff well-being, BLA has also launched a comprehensive staff wellness initiative, supported by the BLR Schools Foundation. This program includes professional development workshops, access to wellness resources, and regular health and fitness activities.





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n Thursday, August 29th in the early hours of the morning, Banning Lewis Ranch again partnered with Colorado Springs Sports Corporation to present a "sneak preview" of the annual Labor Day Lift-Off festivities exclusively for neighborhood residents. This is the third year that residents were treated to multiple balloons and fun with food and coffee trucks first thing on this pre-holiday morning. Unfortunately, weather conditions didn't allow for the balloons to fully inflate or take off but hundreds of neighbors still enjoyed seeing the iconic balloons gathered in Vista Park.









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Buena Vista A BEAUTIFUL VIEW

WITH SO MUCH MORE

by LINDA DUVAL

ooking for a weekend getaway that offers a bit of adventure, plenty of relaxation, and some spectacular scenery? Try Buena Vista, just two hours west of Colorado Springs—a short drive that will transport you mentally light-years away.

Buena Vista, nestled between the stunning Collegiate Peaks and the mighty Arkansas River, offers a laid-back, mountain town vibe. Its name, which means "beautiful view" in Spanish, is fitting for this town perched at 8,000 feet, just on this side of the Continental Divide.

Whether you're into hiking, mountain biking, ATVing, fly fishing, kayaking, rockhounding, or simply soaking in a hot springs pool, Buena Vista has it all, says Mark McComb, a volunteer at the town's visitor center who has lived in the area for 15 years.



FLY FISHING IS GREAT HERE IN THE FALL.

"The Arkansas River is a gold medal stream," he says. "And the weather is a lot like Colorado Springs—this is the nicest time of year, in my opinion."

The area is also perfect for hiking, with popular spots like **Chalk Creek Canyon** and the recently improved and safer trail to **Agnes Vaille Falls**. For mountain biking enthusiasts, a trailhead right in town offers access to miles of trails with varying lengths and difficulty levels. Maps are available at the trailhead.

Summer's wild whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River gives way to calmer waters in the fall, making it ideal for private float trips or kayaking. Or, if you prefer, you can simply sit by the river in the city park, have a picnic lunch, and enjoy a peaceful afternoon siesta.

Nearby, Mount Princeton Hot Springs has undergone major upgrades in recent years and is a great place to soak for a few hours. Also, check out the new **Charlotte Hot Springs**, a more rustic option that includes a botanical garden and tropical birds.



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ST. ELMO...IS A GREAT WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE FALL COLORS.

McComb also recommends visiting for the fall foliage.

"A drive up **Cottonwood Pass** or **Chalk Creek Canyon** to St. Elmo, a preserved ghost town, is a great way to experience the fall colors," he says, noting that the colors usually peak in late September or early October. "I also love going there in winter for the cross-country ski trails."

Rockhounds will find plenty to love in the area as well, with many heading to **Ruby Mountain** to search for garnets.

After a long day of activities, unwind at one of the many restaurants in town—several of which have opened in the past few years. For nightlife, McComb recommends **The Lariat bar**.

"They bring in bands from all over the world, and they're all good," he says.

If you need another reason to visit Buena Vista, mark your calendar for the annual **Fourteener Fest**, happening from Sept. 27-29. The festival includes guided ATV, hiking, and fly-fishing tours, as well as street vendors and live music.

"When I first moved to Buena Vista, many of the stores were closed," McComb recalls. "But now, we're experiencing a boom. There's lots to do here."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER A VISITOR'S GUIDE, GO ONLINE TO

COLORFULCOLORADO.COM/PLAN-YOUR-VISIT/BUENA-VISTA
OR CALL 719-395-6612

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YMCA HAPPENINGS

Summer Fun!

by TAMMY PARSONS

YMCA Program and Event Coordinator

he YMCA kept kids busy all summer with a variety of camps and activities.

Art Camp kicked off the summer with three days of creativity, while Space Camp entertained our future astronauts and engineers. The Western Museum of Mining and Industry provided a day of geology fun, and D49's Culinary Arts program offered kids cooking classes. The Learn Lab helped prepare kids for the next school year with math and reading enrichment. Our music enthusiasts had the chance to learn to play the acoustic guitar. Youth tennis and various sports camps kept our kids active! It was a fun summer for kids to try new things, develop new interests, and learn in a great environment.





Our teens weren't left out either—they could participate in many of these activities and even had their very own pool party to end the summer. About 70 teens spent two hours hanging out and enjoying one last night of fun together.



Adults also had a blast with a Flick and Float event, watching the movie "Jaws" in the pool. Snacks, decorations, and a floating shark added to the fun. Cooking and canning classes offered residents opportunities to learn new skills, like making homemade gnocchi, canning fresh vegetables, and improving knife skills in the kitchen.







For the first time, we offered adult tennis lessons with resident coach Nick Castro. the Air Force Academy assistant men's tennis coach. We're lucky to have someone of his caliber working with our adult tennis players. Rocky Mountain Goat Yoga also returned for another great yoga class with their adorable baby goats.

Families had plenty of opportunities to get outside and try new things together. BLR returned to Weidner Field to enjoy a Switchbacks game, complete with a fun kids' parade on the field. All the kids looked great in their bright green BLR shirts! Families also spent a few nights this summer watching outdoor movies at Vista Park, learning new recipes at family cooking classes, and shopping for fun collectibles at the Comic and Toy Expo.





The highlight of the summer for many families was interacting with a live mermaid! This fun party featured mermaid-themed activities and snacks, mermaid photos and storytime, and finally, swimming with the mermaid at Vista Water Park! It was a cool experience for everyone.





Summer may be over, but the fun isn't. Adults can stay active with our Fall Pickleball League and Couch to 5k program. September will feature our last movie on the lawn. And with fall quickly approaching, be sure to save the date for our Fall Fest on October 12!

We hope the kids and parents have a great school year!





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DISPOSE OF YARD DEBRIS

Responsibly This Fall

by LINDA DUVAL

utumn is here, and with it comes the warm days, cool nights, and beautiful fall colors. But along with these seasonal joys comes a perennial problem: leaves.

It's time to grab the rake and maybe the trimmers to clean up your yard for the winter. But once you've gathered all that debris, what should you do with it?

First and foremost, don't blow it into the street or dump it in a ditch, advises Hannah Rigdon, Illicit Discharge Coordinator for the City of Colorado Springs.

"The biggest issue reported is people blowing their leaves into the street. You might wonder, 'Why is that a big deal?' But those leaves flow into our storm drain system, leading to clogs. They can also increase nitrogen and phosphorus levels in our creeks and water supply, which degrades water quality."



LEAVES FLOW INTO OUR STORM DRAIN SYSTEM, LEADING TO CLOGS.

Even more problematic are cases where people undertake major tree care and dump trimmings

into drainage ways, which can cause flooding for their neighbors.

One of the most serious concerns with raking yard debris into gutters is that it often includes pet waste.

"People in this town love their dogs. I do, too. But unlike other animals that produce good manure, dogs eat a lot of protein, and their feces don't break down easily. They carry E. coli, salmonella, and other harmful bacteria. While we don't drink water straight from the creek, it can still contaminate water downstream. It also makes our waterways less safe for recreation when there's a lot of E. coli in the water."

"It may sound like a minor issue," she adds. "It's not like an oil tanker tipping over, but when you consider all the pet waste we generate, it has a cumulative effect—and it's just plain gross."

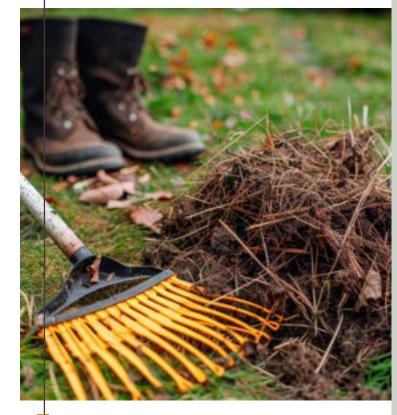
Ignoring these concerns can also cost you.

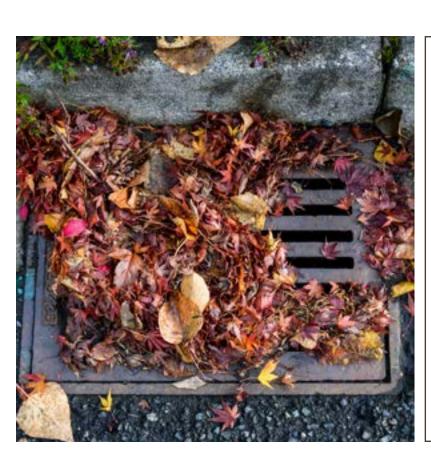
"If you're caught dumping into the storm drain system, we issue a warning first and give you three days to clean it up," Rigdon explains. "If you don't comply, we send a notice of violation. If you still don't clean it up, we'll do it for you—and you'll get a bill. If a police officer or park ranger catches you, they have their own ways of dealing with it. In any case, it will probably cost you more than if you just took care of it yourself."

SO, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH YARD DEBRIS?

Leave your grass clippings on your lawn, where they can add valuable nutrients. Mulching mowers are great for this.

- "Grass mulch lowers the soil temperature and helps reduce water evaporation," Rigdon notes.
- Mulch your garden and flower beds with grass clippings and leaves.
- Compost on your property using a compost bin for both yard waste and food waste. However, do not include pet waste in your compost—dispose of it in your garbage.
- Take yard waste to a local recycling facility, if possible.
- Contact your waste service provider to see what materials they accept.
- Use a phosphorus-free fertilizer to prevent algae growth in our waterways.





RESOURCES

It is recommended that you call first for a list of accepted materials, business hours, and fees.

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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 1-5. 8 Josh Miller - District Manager c/o Clifton Larson Allen 121 S. Tejon Street, Suite 1100 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

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COVENANT CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

Kayla Gaudioso Phone: 719-314-4524 banninglewisranch@diversifiedprop.com

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Please submit plans to: Kayla Gaudioso Phone: 719-314-4524 banninglewisranch@diversifiedprop.com

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

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

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HEALTHCARE

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Memorial Hospital North memorialhealthsystem.com

Colorado Springs Children's Hospital mhchildren.com

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Costco at Barnes and **Powers Roads**

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Colorado Department of Wildlife wildlife.state.co.us

US Fish & Wildlife Service fws.gov



A place for life's

BACK-TO-SCHOOL MOMENTS



BANNING LEWIS RANCH

AN OAKWOOD HOMES COMMUNITY