

CENTENNIAL CONNECTION



SUMMER
2021

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THE CITY OF
CENTENNIAL



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE – CENTENNIAL RINGS IN ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!



- Follow us on social media! We're posting fun and educational posts throughout the year, ranging from service and department spotlights to **#FlashBackFridays** and City history. Follow us **@CentennialGov** and submit stories and images to **centennialco.gov/20years**.
- Lights, camera, action! Watch the City's 20-Year video series showcasing key City features and accomplishments. You can learn about Centennial Center Park and its exciting future developments or get insights from Centennial Mayors. Visit the City's YouTube Channel at **youtube.com/user/CentennialGov**, to watch today.
- Embrace the moment! Please help us celebrate our 20-year milestone by participating in events sprinkled throughout Centennial this year. View the City's community events web page, **centennialco.gov/events**, for the latest event details. We hope to see you.

Twenty years ago, in 2001, the City of Centennial was legally established as a Colorado city. The City was founded on the principles of fiscal responsibility, limited government and self-determination.

Two decades later, our award-winning City continues to embrace our founders' original vision by maintaining a lean City Staff and leveraging key partnerships and cost-saving contracts for City services. Today, our community

is home to more than 110,000 residents and over 5,200 registered businesses. We want to take the time to share a big **thank you** for helping make Centennial a great place to be and a community where neighborhoods and businesses make a difference.

To commemorate 20 years together, we're celebrating in a variety of ways. We invite you to engage in whichever options you are most comfortable participating in. Let's celebrate!

Are you interested in learning more about Centennial's 20-year? You can continue our year-long celebration by visiting the City's website at **centennialco.gov** and following us on social media **@CentennialGov**.

Gallup Great Workplace Award

The City was again honored to be recognized by the Gallup organization with our 5th consecutive Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award. This year, we were one of 39 winners worldwide called out for our high employee engagement and resulting strategy, leadership, performance, accountability, communication, knowledge management, development and ongoing learning. We are proud to accept this award and want to thank every single employee of the City who contributes to making this an exceptional place to work.

GFOA award for Excellence in Reporting

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Centennial for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. This is the 11th year in row the City has received this prestigious recognition.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The comprehensive annual financial report is available for citizens to access and view on the City website at centennialco.gov/comprehensiveannualfinancialreport.

Spark Centennial Placemaking Program Earns DRCOG Metro Vision Award

Spark Centennial, a program launched by the City to reinvigorate area shopping centers through innovative events and projects, has been selected for a 2021 Metro Vision Award by the Denver Regional Council of Governments. DRCOG presented the honor at a virtual awards ceremony held April 28, 2021.

DRCOG's Metro Vision Award program recognizes exemplary projects, plans and initiatives that significantly improve quality of life in the Denver region and its communities.

Introduced as a pilot program in 2019, Spark Centennial is designed to develop a sense of community and vibrant shopping districts through placemaking installations, unique customer experiences and innovative projects. Learn more at centennialco.gov/spark.

The District-Centennial Breaks Ground!

In April, the Mayor and Council Members celebrated the groundbreaking of The District-Centennial. Located west of I-25 between IKEA and the Dry Creek light rail station, The District-Centennial is envisioned to offer a dynamic mixed-use area featuring walkable blocks, active streets and public gathering spaces. Learn more at centennialco.gov/thedistrict.



Pictured left to right: Council Members Christine Sweetland, Don Sheehan, Mike Sutherland, Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Turley, Richard Holt, Mayor Stephanie Piko, Marlo Alston, and Tammy Maurer.

Continued Transparency on the City website

A City Project and Initiatives webpage is available for users to easily locate information on critical projects, programs and initiatives underway in Centennial. Learn more and get engaged at centennialco.gov/cityprojects.

An Open Finance Portal provides the public a clear view into complex financial information. Open Finance is a financial transparency portal – part of Centennial's commitment to the City's Strategic Goal of Fiscal Sustainability by openly displaying the City's accountability for taxpayer resources.

Visit centennialco.gov/openfinance to view a complete picture of the City's adopted budget and a preview of anticipated neighborhood and infrastructure projects.

CHEERS TO 20 YEARS!

All are welcome to celebrate Centennial's 20-year anniversary at these family-friendly community events.

We hope to see you there!



Summer Socials

Thursday, June 10
6-8 p.m.

Village Park

Parker Rd. & Lake Ave.

Tuesday, June 15
6-8 p.m.

Clarkson Park

S Clarkson St. & E. Geddes Ave.

Tuesday, July 13
6-8 p.m.

Heritage Village Park

E. Fair Dr. & E. Maplewood Dr.

Thursday, July 29
6-8 p.m.

Centennial Center Park

E Peakview Ave., north of
S Revere Pkwy

All events: Live music • Family activities • Food trucks

Brew-N-Que

Saturday, July 10
3-7 p.m.

Centennial Center Park

- Local BBQ food trucks
- Colorado breweries
- Live music



Centennial Under the Stars

Saturday, August 14
6-10 p.m.

Centennial Center Park

- Live music
- Laser show
- Family activities
- Local vendors & food trucks



20-Year Celebration

Saturday, September 18
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Streets at SouthGlenn

- Pancake breakfast
- Exotic car show
- Chalk art
- Live music
- Family activities
- Local vendors & food



Whiskey Warmer

Saturday, October 23 • 3-7 p.m.

Centennial Center Park

- Live music
- Colorado whiskey & spirits distillers
- Local vendors & food trucks



Holiday Artisan Market

Saturday, December 4 • 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Centennial Center Park

- Live music
- Family activities
- Local vendors & food trucks



centennialco.gov/events

The City is updating its Transportation Master Plan (TMP). Since the completion of the first plan, in 2013, the range of mobility options and how transportation is used has evolved and the need for more interconnected and responsive options has grown.

The new plan will build on the previous TMP and continue to develop an efficient and balanced transportation system. In addition, the new TPM will identify future improvements, investments, and policies which will enable residents, employees, and visitors to continue moving in, out and throughout Centennial for years to come.

About the Process

The TMP process provides numerous opportunities for public engagement. Development of the updated Centennial TMP began in March 2021 and the plan is anticipated to be complete by January 2022.

The planning and public input process include:

- Analysis of existing and future conditions within the transportation network
- Citizen input regarding existing issues, community values, and desired outcomes/improvements
- Identification of near- and long-term improvements—through 2040—that:
 - Address diverse and evolving needs of our community
 - Identify and prioritize community needs
 - Include multiple modes of connected and accessible transportation
 - Align with development and land-use changes
 - Efficient management of taxpayer dollars
 - Leverage strategic partnerships and innovative technology

Get Involved

The City welcomes you to share your voice throughout the various phases of the TMP process. Now more than ever, it is critical to connect and help shape the future in creative yet strategic ways.

To learn more visit centennialco.gov/tmp. Stay informed by subscribing to our Transportation Master Plan e-newsletter list at centennialco.gov/notifications.



Ready. Check. Vote.

It's an election year in the City of Centennial, and the 2021 Municipal Election is Tuesday, November 2.

In Centennial, voters will elect a mayor and City Council representatives in Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4. For more information about the City of Centennial's Municipal Election, including a list of candidates, visit centennialco.gov/election.

Interested in being an elected official?

View the 2021 Election Calendar at centennialco.gov/election.

Watch Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Turley share her experience as a member of City Council at youtube.com/user/CentennialGov.

Voter information

Are you looking for more information on voting and registration? You can register to vote online, by paper, or in-person by viewing details at arapahoevotes.com.



Sweeping into Summer

Summer street sweeping is scheduled from July through August and the fall program is scheduled for mid-September through the end of November. The sweeping schedules are dependent upon the weather and may change to adjust for weather delays.

Visit centennialco.gov/streetsweeping for the sweeping schedule, or get notifications by subscribing at centennialco.gov/notifyme and on the private neighborhood social network, nextdoor.com.

2020 was certainly an unforgettable year and one that resulted in many adjustments to our daily lives. Here's a few ways the City adapted services during the COVID pandemic.

Please note, these are just a few highlight and is is not a comprehensive list.



Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)

Received access to close to \$10.4M in CARES funding through an intergovernmental agreement with Arapahoe County to help lighten the impacts of the pandemic. View our full CARES report at centennialco.gov/cares

88% Small Business Assistance (\$9,200,000)

6% each Residential Support (\$600,000) & City Facilities and Pandemic Response



We shared information!

With so much change and uncertainty, providing information to the community was more important than ever!

13 Developed 13 COVID specific resource pages on City website

125 Sent more than 125 e-blasts, including over 33 special editions of Centennial Business Monthly e-newsletter



We went virtual!

100 Hosted nearly 100 virtual meetings (April 2020-2021) and had more than **800** comments on the new **Have Your Say Centennial** web pages.

4,500 Centennial was the first City to offer remote building inspections. Approximately 4,500 inspections from late March to September 2020



We tested!

100,000 The City turned its parking lot into a No-Cost Testing Site in November 2020, resulting in nearly 100,000 tests were performed as of April 2021.



We supported our Community!

64+ Local business partners registered for the City's Think Local Campaign

600 Attended City-sponsored drive-in movies throughout the City

70 trees were delivered to residents' homes in 2020; **80+** trees were delivered in 2021



Award winning Contact Center responds!

2,030+ The City's 24/7 Citizen Response Center responded to more than 2,030 COVID-19-related issues since the start of the pandemic.

Centennial Community Grant Program

The City has developed two community grants intended to enhance and foster neighborhood collaboration. The Community Grant Program is intended to strengthen neighborhood identity and civic pride and increase opportunities to bring neighbors together.

Neighborhood Engagement Grant

This Grant provides small monetary grants to residents, HOAs, and community organizations located in Centennial to support community building events such as neighborhood block parties, movie nights, and social gatherings. Grant recipients may receive up to \$500 per event to assist in covering costs.

The Large Community Improvement Grant

The Large Community Improvement Grant supports larger-scale improvements to neighborhoods. Groups may apply for up to \$10,000 per project for community based improvements, including but not limited to neighborhood signage, fencing, landscaping improvements, place making, and community gardens.

Visit centennialco.gov/communitygrants to learn more and apply.

Grants at a glance

Neighborhood Engagement Grant

\$500 value

Applications accepted until funds are exhausted and are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Residents, HOA's, and community organizations who live within Centennial city limits may apply.

Funds can be used for neighborhood block parties, movie nights, social gatherings, etc.

Large Community Improvement Grant

\$10,000 value

Application deadline: June 30, 2021

Residents, HOAs and community organizations within Centennial city limits may apply

Funds can be used for community-based improvements, including, but not limited to, neighborhood fencing, landscape improvements, place-making and community gardens

Living with wildlife

Follow these tips from Centennial Animal Services to be safe in the event of a wildlife encounter.

Tips to avoid attracting wildlife to your yard

1. Pick up fallen fruit from fruit trees.
2. Don't leave your pet's food and water outside unattended.
3. Install motion activated flood lights.
4. Do not feed wildlife.
5. Make sure wildlife cannot burrow and live beneath your porch.

Did You Know?

Air horns are excellent tools for encounters with coyotes, mountain lions and bobcats. Scaring away a potentially threatening animal with the loud noise from an air horn keeps you and your party safe while avoiding injury to the animal.

Tips for navigating encounters with wildlife

1. Back away slowly and do not turn your back on the animal.
2. Lift your arms in the air to make yourself appear larger.
3. Yell or make as much noise as possible.
4. Call Centennial Animal Services at (303) 325-8070 if you are concerned about the animal's presence.





Are you ready (or making) the switch to electric?

In 2020, Centennial developed its first electric vehicle (EV) Action Plan through Xcel Energy Partners in Energy. The plan sets a goal to increase the number of EVs in Centennial to 18,000 by 2030. The goal stems from a baseline of 2,000 in 2020.

Overall, this goal represents Centennial's contribution toward the state's target of 940,000 EVs by 2030 as part of the Colorado EV Plan 2020.

Learn about the benefits of operating EVs, details on making the switch, or the financial incentives by visiting centennialco.gov/centennialev.

Helping Clear Hurdles to an Electric Future

The City has two charging stations available for public use:

1. Centennial Civic Center
13133 E. Arapahoe Road
2. Centennial Public Works Facility
7272 S. Eagle Street

Quick Facts:

- **Dual-Port Charging:** The City of Centennial's Level II dual-port charging stations can service two vehicles at the same time.
- **ADA Accessibility:** Each charging station serves one accessible parking spot and two standard parking spots.
- **Rates:** Rates are \$0.15 per kWh for the first two hours and \$1.50 per hour after two hours of use.

Learn more at centennialco.gov/centennialev.



Centennial Civic Center open, including Passports!

Passport services are available at the City's Civic Center by appointment only Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit centennialco.gov/passports to view details and book your reservation.

Centennial Civic Center now open! 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday



24-Hour Citizen Response Center

If you see something, say something!

Phone: **303-325-8000**

Online: centennialco.gov/reportaproblem



Stay Connected

Receive up-to-date news and information on what's important to you. Sign up at centennialco.gov/notifyme.



Crime Prevention

The Community Resources Unit of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office wants to help you reduce your chances of becoming a victim of a crime. Explore the crime prevention tips at arapahoegov.com/925/Crime-Prevention.

Dead Animal Removal

Are you looking for help with a dead animal? What you need to do depends on the type of animal, and where it is located. Learn more at centennialco.gov/deadanimal.



Meet the Mayor

Mayor Piko is available virtually or in person.

When: Every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Where: Centennial Civic Center

View more details on our calendar at centennialco.gov/citycalendar.

Spark Centennial Continues Trailblazing in Economic Development

Spark Centennial, a program launched by Centennial to reinvigorate area shopping centers through innovative events and projects, continues to be a beacon for economic development in the City and across the Denver region.

Introduced as a pilot program in 2019, Spark Centennial is designed to develop a sense of community and vibrant shopping districts through placemaking installations, unique customer experiences and innovative projects. The program aims to aid local businesses with attracting customers and mitigating retail and shopping center vacancies, a nationally rising trend nationally further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spark Centennial's past initiatives have included the Blues Bugs and BBQ Festival, Super Smash Bros Ultimate Singles Tournament, SouthGlenn 10th anniversary celebration and a business strategy workshop. In addition, Spark Centennial led a collaboration of the arts, business and technology communities in Winter 2020 to present an interactive scavenger hunt experience involving several businesses in and around the University Towne Center shopping district.

A current initiative of Spark Centennial is an Experience Accelerator program involving 13 local businesses. This

six-month program provides education and support to help businesses connect with artists to create unique activations that enhance the customer experience. These experiences are anticipated to be presented to customers and the community later this year. To learn more visit centennialco.gov/spark.



SmashDEN partnered with Spark Centennial to host a 64-person Double Elimination Super Smash Bros Ultimate Singles tournament on August 2019.