

Columbine Patio Homes Happenings

OCTOBER 2025



Torino Circle
Fort Collins, CO

970-490-1000

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MANAGER
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SERVICES
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MAINTENANCE
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OCTOBER

By Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.

Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.

Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!

For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
For the grapes' sake along the wall.

RESIDENT SHOWCASE: INTRODUCING CHRIS ELKINS & MICHELLE MORGAN (#835)

Chris and Michelle are lifelong residents of Fort Collins. Chris is a Colorado native, growing up in Colorado Springs. After serving in the Navy as a Seabee, Chris attended Colorado State University, graduating with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He settled in Fort Collins, finding employment with a small start-up company called Aqua Tec, which later became Teledyne Water Pik, where he worked for nearly 20 years in product development and engineering management. He left Water Pik to work for another start-up, Vipoint Pharmaceuticals, where he supervised the construction and licensing of an FDA-approved manufacturing facility for oral care products. After Vipoint was acquired by Colgate Palmolive, Chris again worked for another start-up, Voice It Technologies, managing their overseas manufacturing in the Far East. He traveled extensively to Singapore, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, and South Korea.



Michelle grew up in Skokie, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago. She attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and graduated with a B.S. in communications. After graduation, she headed to Colorado and found employment as a Marketing Research Analyst and Manager of Marketing Research with Teledyne Water Pik. After several years, she returned to school at Colorado State University, earning her MBA. She then started work as a marketing manager and was later promoted to Vice President of Professional Marketing of Viadent oral care products at Vipoint Pharmaceutical. After the Colgate acquisition, she co-founded a marketing consulting firm, ProMark, working for companies across the U.S. Eventually, she joined another start-up, Voice It Technologies, as president.

Chris and Michelle were lucky to spend much of their employment at the same companies, with Chris specializing in engineering and manufacturing, and Michelle working in marketing and management. They retired in 2000 to pursue their love of travel in the U.S. and overseas. Chris continued to enjoy his passion for fly fishing both in Colorado and Florida, where he and Michelle established a part-time residency on Pine Island, Florida until 2024. When commuting back and forth from Fort Collins to Bokeelia, Florida, they became interested in visiting Civil War sites across the South and East. Their visits took them to Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Petersburg, Shiloh, and many smaller sites.

Michelle volunteered her time serving on the HOA boards in Florida and Fort Collins, getting to know all her neighbors and developing close friends in both communities. This year they decided to sell both their condos, in Florida and Fort Collins, and relocate to the Columbine Patio Homes, where they love the friendly community and have enjoyed getting to meet their new neighbors. They have family across the U.S., including Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Laramie, Los Angeles, Bellingham (Washington), and the Chicago area.

OCTOBER IS DINOSAUR & FOSSIL MONTH!

1. Dinosaurs Lived for Over 160 Million Years

Dinosaurs roamed the Earth from the Triassic Period (about 230 million years ago) through the Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods, until their mass extinction 66 million years ago—a reign far longer than humans have existed.

2. Birds Are Living Dinosaurs

Modern birds evolved from small, feathered dinosaurs called theropods—the same group that includes *Tyrannosaurus rex*. This makes birds the last surviving lineage of dinosaurs.

3. Fossils Aren't Just Bones

Fossils can include impressions of skin, feathers, footprints, nests, and even dino dung (called coprolites). These trace fossils help scientists understand dinosaur behavior, diets, and habitats.

4. The Word “Dinosaur” Means “Terrible Lizard”

Coined in 1842 by British paleontologist Sir Richard Owen, the word “dinosaur” comes from the Greek *deinos* (terrible) and *sauros* (lizard)—though dinosaurs are not technically lizards.

5. Fossilization Is Extremely Rare

Most organisms decompose or are eaten before they can fossilize. Fossils typically form when an organism is quickly buried by sediment, such as in a riverbed or volcanic ash, and minerals slowly replace organic material over time.



6. The Largest Dinosaur Was Longer Than a Blue Whale

The massive Argentinosaurus, a type of sauropod, is estimated to have reached up to 100 feet long and weighed over 70 tons—making it one of the largest land animals ever.

7. Dinosaurs Lived on Every Continent

Fossils have been discovered on all seven continents, including Antarctica, proving that dinosaurs were incredibly widespread and adapted to a variety of climates.

8. We Know Dinosaur Colors—Sort Of

Using advanced technology, scientists have analyzed fossilized pigment cells in feathers, revealing that some dinosaurs may have had iridescent feathers, or patterns like stripes and spots—similar to modern birds.

9. T. rex Had a Bite Force of Over 12,000 Pounds

That's stronger than any living land animal today—enough to crush bone. Despite its reputation, T. rex also may have been a scavenger as well as a predator.

10. Fossils Help Date Earth's Geological Layers

By studying where specific fossils appear in rock layers, scientists developed the geologic time scale—a timeline of Earth's history that helps us understand evolution and past environments.

FOSSILS AT THE WORTHINGTON

Our own Gary Filerman, resident of the Worthington, is displaying his beautiful collection of fossils from all over the world! Come by the Worthington Lobby and check them out!

COME MEET OUR NEW HAIRSTYLIST — CRYSTAL FROST!

We're excited to welcome Crystal Frost to The Worthington Salon! Just a short walk from your Patio Home! Give her a try—you'll be glad you did!

Open Tues, Wed & Thurs - 10am – 4pm

To book your appointment, call: **970-461-0063** (Walk-Ins Accepted!)

Crystal brings over 30 years of hairstyling experience, with many of those years dedicated to working with seniors. Her warm personality and skilled touch are sure to make you feel right at home in the salon chair.

Crystal is also the proud owner of Serenity Hair Design in Loveland and is now accepting appointments right here in our community.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

Building a sense of community, even in a setting as small as the 34 households on Torino Circle, is not something that happens automatically. It takes energy, creativity, determination, and hard work. Two of our Torino Circle households deserve a special shout-out for their efforts to establish that sense of community. Aaffien ("Aaf") Schafer and Victoria and Steve Benson have done outstanding work over the past several years. They've extended hospitality for discussion groups and Wednesday walks. The Christmas gatherings at The Worthington for patio home residents, complete with Aaf's beautiful hand-crafted take-home gifts, have been special events. Have we mentioned the ice cream socials the Bensons facilitate during the summer? Besides hosting one themselves, they provided tables and help for other neighbors who volunteered to host the events--all helping us get to know one another. Thank you, our pioneers in community building. We treasure you!

TORINO SHARING LIBRARY

Thank you to all who donate books for the sharing library and all the Torino Circle residents who enjoy reading the varied selections! A new addition to the library book box is a rack on the side to hold magazines that our residents might be willing to share after they've finished reading them. Bob Clark will monitor the rack to make sure it stays neat and appropriately current.



Your Library Stewards, Kathy and Dan Wendland

Our current Stewards for the library are Dan & Kathy Wendland #827

Contact them at 970-377-1235 with any, contributions, questions or concerns. *Thank you, Dan & Kathy!*

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

ROLLERS & STROLLERS

Join the patio home residents **every Wednesday at 10am** as they “Roll ‘n Stroll” around the circle. A great way to get some fresh air and connect with your neighbors. The weather is nice, come out and get some exercise with friends!

SENIOR SERENADERS

We are delighted to once again welcome the Senior Serenaders to the Worthington! This wonderful chorus of talented senior singers will be joining us **on Wednesday, October 1st, at 10:30 a.m.** to fill our halls with music and joy.

The Senior Serenaders are made up of singers from across the community, including residents of the Worthington and Patio Homes. Their uplifting voices and heartfelt performance are always a highlight of the season. Come join us for this special event—you won't want to miss it!

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S FUNDRAISER:

Sunday, October 5th

Join us this Fall in supporting a cause close to our hearts—raising funds for Alzheimer's research. Each year, our community comes together in meaningful ways to help fight this challenging disease, and we're excited to do it again with your help!

If you would like to join our Walk to End Alzheimer's Team for the walk **on Sunday, October 5th at 1:00pm**, you may register by going to **act.alz.org/goto/worthingtonwalks** or by scanning the QR code below. There is no fee to register but raising \$100 will earn you the Walk T-Shirt!



TORINO CIRCLE LUNCH BUNCH

All Torino Circle Patio home residents are invited to attend the October lunch at a nearby Mexican restaurant with a wonderful menu and friendly staff.

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025

Time: Gather at 11:30 a.m.;

Lunch at noon

Restaurant: Cancun Mexican Grill & Cantina

1006 Spring Creek Lane
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Hosts: Jack & Sandy Reed

RSVP: to Jack & Sandy (970) 223-5801
or Mary Clark (970) 420-0318

No Later Than Tuesday, 10/7

COLORADO NATURE SERIES WITH KEVIN: “COLOGRAPHY – THE NITTY-GRITTY COLORADO”

We’re excited to welcome Kevin back to the Worthington for the 10th installment of his always-popular Colorado Nature series, titled: “Colography: The Nitty-Gritty Colorado – State, County, and Municipal Lands and Their Scapes.”

Join us on Wednesday, October 9th at 10:00 AM in the Town Hall for another fascinating look at the landscapes that shape our state.

In Kevin’s own words:

“The concept of city parks became embedded in American culture, but over time, parks came to mean much more than flowerbeds, picnic tables, and tennis courts. Ideas like ‘open spaces’ and ‘natural areas’ gained popularity—and today, these spaces serve our communities in countless meaningful ways.”

Kevin’s presentations are always thought-provoking, informative, and inspiring. Whether you’ve attended previous sessions or are new to the series, this is a great opportunity to deepen your connection with Colorado’s natural and civic landscapes.

Don’t miss it—come be part of the experience!

Sign-up required! Call 970-490-1000

TORINO CIRCLE DISCUSSION GROUP

Please join us **on Monday, October 6th at 10 am** for our monthly discussion group. We ask that you come prepared to share some of your favorite places of interest or activities in Fort Collins and environs.

Discussion Leader: Judith Putnam

Discussion Topic: Air

Hosts: Victoria & Steve Benson

Address: 817 Torino Circle

Phone: 302-593-2286

DISCOVER LOCAL HISTORY WITH MARK SEROUR

We’re thrilled to welcome back Mark Serour, local historian and owner of Fort Collins History Tours, for a special presentation **on Tuesday, October 14th at 1:30 PM in the Town Hall.**

With years of research and a deep passion for storytelling, Mark brings the rich history of Northern Colorado to life—sharing captivating tales from the region’s pioneer days to the development of the vibrant community we know today. His presentations are always a hit, filled with colorful characters, surprising events, and fascinating local lore you won’t find in textbooks.

Whether you’re a history enthusiast or simply curious about the stories that shaped our surroundings, this is an afternoon you won’t want to miss.

Please sign up in advance to reserve your seat. Come ready to learn, laugh, and explore the past right outside our doors!

GUEST SPEAKER EVENT: ONCE UPON A YEAR WITH JIM WILLARD

Thursday, October 16th, at 11:00 AM

We’re excited to welcome back Jim Willard for his popular series, Once Upon a Year! **Join us on Thursday, October 16th, at 11:00 AM** for a nostalgic journey through time.

In this engaging program, Jim will take us on a trip down memory lane—exploring notable moments from years past, including highlights in world events, politics, pop culture, music, and entertainment. It’s a fascinating and fun look at the decades that shaped our lives.

This event fills up fast, so sign-ups are required!

Reserve your spot today by calling 970-490-1000.

Don’t miss out on this entertaining and enlightening stroll through history!

THE TORINO CIRCLE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, October 20th, 2025, at 10:00 AM

You will find our group meeting at the home of Barbara Branstad (#833). Barbara will lead our discussion of the book *A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold.

About the book: "Conjuring up one extraordinary vision after another, Leopold takes readers with him on the road and through the seasons on a fantastic tour of our priceless natural resources, explaining the destructive effects humankind has had on the land and issuing a bold challenge to protect the world we love."

Also note that some of our group expressed an interest in reading and discussing the Ft. Collins Reads selection for this year, Lula Dean's *Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller. The discussion of this book will be held **on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM** at the home of Carol Herbert (#862). **Carol will be leading the discussion prior to the Author's Event on Sunday, November 1, 2025, 2:00 PM at the Fort Collins Marriott.** The last report was that there are very few tickets left to purchase.

Barbara Hagen and Carol Herbert, Co-Organizers

If you are new to our community or would like to join our group, but haven't read the book, join us anyway. We'd enjoy having you there. Any questions about joining, or anything else about the group, **please contact Barbara Hagen at (970) 219-9600** or e-mail her at ***bhagen6NT@gmail.com***

TORINO CIRCLE GENTLEMEN'S BOOK CLUB

More Than a Book Club – A Time to Connect

Calling all gentlemen of Torino Circle! You're invited to join a new monthly gathering that's not just about reading—it's about sharing, connecting, and enjoying great conversation with fellow neighbors.

Reading the book is optional—your life experience, thoughts, and stories are what truly make the group special. Whether you've read every chapter or just come for the coffee and camaraderie, you'll be warmly welcomed.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 20th, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Home of Steve Benson (#817)

Book: *The Battle for Guadalcanal* by Samuel B. Griffith II

Questions? Contact Bob Clark at (970) 420-0318

We look forward to seeing you there—bring your thoughts, your stories, and a smile!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VISIT – YOUR GUIDE TO THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

We are excited to welcome the League of Women Voters to the Worthington **on Wednesday, October 22nd at 2:30 PM in the Town Hall.** For over 100 years, this esteemed nonpartisan organization has been at the forefront of voter education and civic engagement, empowering citizens to make informed decisions at the polls.

During their visit, League members will present an informative overview of the key issues and measures that will appear on the upcoming November ballot. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your understanding, ask questions, and engage with others who are equally invested in our community's future.

Whether you're a seasoned voter or new to the process, this session will provide you with the tools and knowledge you need to vote with confidence. We encourage everyone to attend—bring your questions, curiosity, and commitment to being an informed voter. Let's ensure our voices are heard this November!

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC – FREE MONTHLY CHECK-UP!

Did you know that The Worthington offers a monthly Blood Pressure Clinic for residents? This free service is provided by the caring nurses and CNAs from Columbine Health and is a great way to stay on top of your health.

When: Every third Friday of the month, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Worthington Galleria Coffee Shop

Next Clinic: Friday, October 24th, 2025

This clinic is free and open to all patio home residents. Stop by for a quick check-in and a friendly hello!

HALLOWEEN PARTY – YABBA DABBA DOO!

YOU ARE INVITED! It's that spook-tacular time of year once again, and we're thrilled to invite you to our Annual Halloween Party **on Friday, October 31st at 2:00 PM here at the Worthington!** This year's theme is one for the ages—The Flintstones! Join us for a fun-filled afternoon with everyone's favorite prehistoric family, perfectly timed with our October focus on dinosaurs and fossils.

We encourage everyone to get into the spirit by dressing up in costume. Whether you choose to be Fred, Wilma, Barney, Betty, Pebbles, Dino, or create your own Stone Age character, we'd love to see your creativity shine! Dinosaur-inspired costumes are also warmly welcomed and will fit right in with the theme.

The afternoon will be packed with laughter, music, games, and delicious treats. Our space will be transformed into a Bedrock-inspired wonderland, so get ready to step back in time and experience the magic of the Stone Age.

Halloween at the Worthington is always a highlight of the year, and we can't wait to celebrate with you. Mark your calendars, gather your costumes, and get ready for a yabba-dabba-delightful celebration!

TORINO CIRCLE HALLOWEEN BASH

Join us for the Annual Torino Circle Halloween Open House **on Friday, October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at 871 Torino Circle.** Come in costume (or not—costumes are optional!) and enjoy a festive evening with neighbors. We'll have hot cider and a selection of finger foods to nibble on. Feel free to bring your favorite drinks if you'd like something different.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Friday, October 17th at 8:00 AM

Start your morning off right! Join the men of our community for our Monthly Men's Breakfast **on Friday, October 17th at 8:00 AM** in the Worthington Private Dining Room.

Enjoy a hearty breakfast, hot coffee, and meaningful conversation in great company. It's a perfect way to kick off the day—relaxed, social, and satisfying.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sign-up required! Call 970-490-1000

Note: This will be the last Men's Breakfast until after the holiday season.



UPCOMING FLU SHOT & VACCINE CLINIC

October 8th

STAY HEALTHY THIS SEASON!

A Flu Shot & Vaccine Clinic will be held on:

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Worthington Activity Room

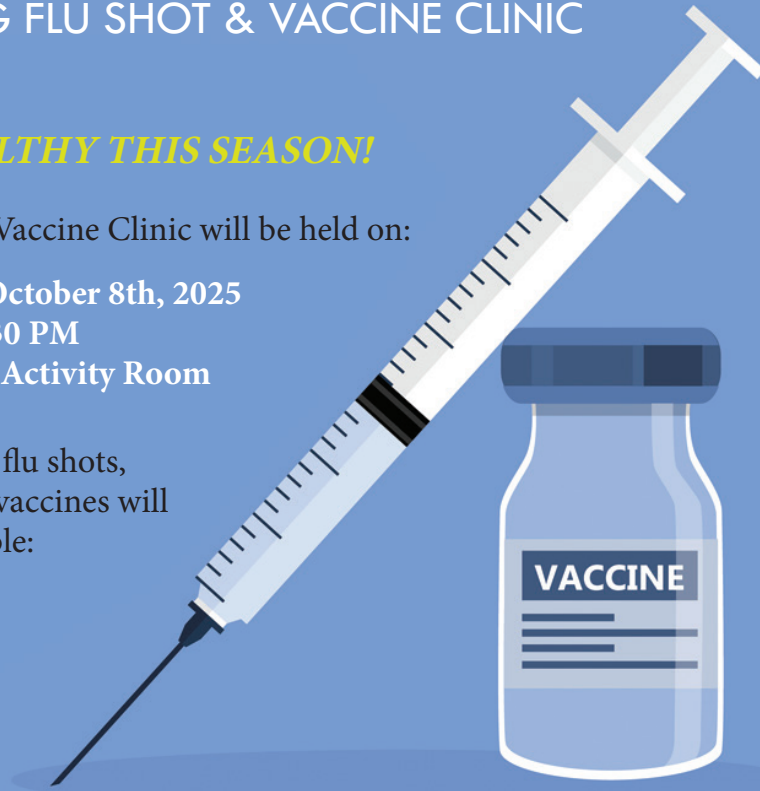
In addition to flu shots,
the following vaccines will
also be available:

COVID-19

RSV

Pneumonia

Shingles



WHAT TO BRING:

- A completed consent form
- A copy of your insurance card

Note: Kaiser insurance is not accepted at this clinic.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

- Consent forms are available at the Worthington Front Desk or can be emailed to you.

Let's stay protected together!

IMPORTANT MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING REMINDER:

To ensure your maintenance needs are handled efficiently, **please remember to always call the Worthington Front Desk at (970) 490-1000 to place a work or landscaping order—especially during evenings, weekends, or after hours.**

A few helpful tips:

- Our maintenance team follows a scheduled list using an app called **Limble** and may not have time to take on additional requests during a visit.
- For the best service, please avoid adding extra tasks in person while they are working in or around your unit.
- To keep everything organized, we kindly ask that you do not email or text work orders to the Administrator, particularly outside of business hours.

Reminder: Maintenance is available on-call for emergent needs on weekends and after hours. Some examples of a maintenance emergency include Air conditioning or heat not working, no hot water, water leaks or flooding, and egress-related issues. **Note:** If your smoke detector is alarming and saying “fire” or “carbon monoxide”, please contact 911, do not contact the front desk.

**Thank you for helping us
serve you better
by following these simple guidelines!**