

# ERIE EDITION

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2016 ERIE EDITION • VISIT THE TOWN OF ERIE ONLINE AT [ERIECO.GOV](http://ERIECO.GOV) • [ERIECO.GOV/FACEBOOK](http://ERIECO.GOV/FACEBOOK)



## AWARD WINNING ERIE!

IN CASE YOU MISSED ALL THE GREAT THINGS PEOPLE WERE SAYING ABOUT ERIE IN 2015, WE PUT TOGETHER THIS LIST OF SOME OF OUR FAVORITE RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS.



» **Money Magazine: One of the Best Places to Live in America - #13:**

In 2015 MONEY Magazine ranked Erie #13 on the list of the 50 best small cities in the country - places with great jobs, strong economies, affordable homes, excellent schools, and that special something that makes it a great place to live! Here's what they had to say:

*Erie is sitting pretty - 30 minutes from Denver and the international airport and just 15 minutes east of Boulder, it's in a perfect spot for workers wanting an easy commute to major employers like the University of Colorado and IBM. With the Rocky Mountains within view, it's a short drive to world-class hiking and skiing. While the former coal mining town is still small, it has some big numbers: 56% of residents have college degrees, and the median household income is upwards of \$100,000.*

» **Downtown Colorado, Inc.:** Governor's Award for Downtown Excellence in the category of Best Adaptive Reuse or Rehabilitation, using the tool of a Town Urban Renewal Authority - "Firehouse to Brewpub"

» **Government Finance Officers Association:** Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting – 2014 Annual Report



» 8 Safest And Most Peaceful Places To Live In Colorado - **#1**, Only in Your State

» 2015 Safest Places in Colorado - **#6**, Value Penguin

» The 20 Safest Cities in Colorado, 2015 - **#6**, Safewise

» 100 Safest Cities in America - **#63**, SafeWise

» 10 Most Affordable Denver Suburbs - **#10**, Movoto

» 10 Best Places to Live in Colorado - **#8**, HomeSnacks

» 10 Best Denver Suburbs for Families - **#4**, Movoto

» 10 Best Denver Suburbs for Young Couples - **#1**, Movoto



» 11 Best Denver Suburbs - **#6** (tie), Movoto

» Ten Best Colorado Suburbs to Buy a House - **#3**, Westword

» SAVVY Award for Digital Interactive - Website, City-County Communications & Marketing Association

» Silver Circle Award for TV and Video – Education/Training (Inside Erie: Water Edition), City-County Communications & Marketing Association

» Award of Distinction - Government Website, The Communicator Awards

» Award of Distinction - Public Service Video - Inside Erie: Water, The Communicator Awards



# A LETTER FROM MAYOR TINA HARRIS



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Erie Board of Trustees meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the Town Hall Board Room located at 645 Holbrook Street. Contact the Board via email at [bot@erieco.gov](mailto:bot@erieco.gov) or by calling 303-926-2777, extension 1. The Trustee's individual email addresses and phone numbers are listed below:

**Mayor, Tina Harris**  
[tharris@erieco.gov](mailto:tharris@erieco.gov)  
 303-926-2777, Extension 2

**Mayor Pro Tem, Mark Gruber**  
[mgruber@erieco.gov](mailto:mgruber@erieco.gov)  
 303-926-2777, Extension 3

**Trustee, Jennifer Carroll**  
[jcarroll@erieco.gov](mailto:jcarroll@erieco.gov)  
 303-926-2777, Extension 5

**Trustee, Scott Charles**  
[scharles@erieco.gov](mailto:scharles@erieco.gov)  
 303-926-2777, Extension 4

**Trustee, Janice Moore**  
[jmoore@erieco.gov](mailto:jmoore@erieco.gov)  
 303-926-2777, Extension 6

**Trustee, Waylon Schutt**  
[wschutt@erieco.gov](mailto:wschutt@erieco.gov)  
 303-926-2777, Extension 7

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[dwoog@erieco.gov](mailto:dwoog@erieco.gov)  
 303-926-2777, Extension 8



## ERIE EDITION

Erie Edition is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Town of Erie.

Send questions or comments to:  
[ErieNewsUpdate@erieco.gov](mailto:ErieNewsUpdate@erieco.gov)  
 or call 303-926-2763.



With the last Board of Trustees meeting for 2015 behind us, I'd like to share with you five words worth repeating: "Erie is a great investment."

I believe in these five words in part because, the Town is financially sound; our economic development efforts are strengthening and our future has never looked brighter. And as I've previously shared with you - there's plenty of evidence to support my claim.

We all lead busy lives – especially with the holidays upon us, but I'm asking that you please take just a few moments to read about the Town's financial management strategy, one which includes a practice of conservative budgeting; attentive management of our investment portfolios; responsible debt management and revenue diversification.

**CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING:** During our December 8th meeting the Board approved the 2016 Budget that includes a surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$275,000. During the months-long budgeting process, the Board of Trustees identified our priorities for the coming year. We've taken a fiscally responsible approach – one that preserves the public health and safety of our town; allows us to maintain quality service delivery and gives us the ability fund one-time capital projects.

Not only are the Town's finances sound - they have been for some time. Our reserves are more than adequate. Excluding one-time expenditures in 2015 we have run surpluses in the General Fund since at least 2012, and are budgeting to do so in 2016. Total actual combined fund balances have increased each year since 2012.

How we report our budget is just as important as the budget itself. In case you haven't heard, the Town has recently been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's "Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting" for 2014. I would like to commend our Town Administrator A.J. Krieger and Finance Director Steve Felten for another job well done.

**INVESTOR RATINGS:** Three times in the last year we have seen the Town's overall credit rating improve. These favorable ratings are attributable to the overall economic health of Erie and reflect the confidence that Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poor's (S&P) have in the financial management of the Town's enterprise funds and the Town's management team.

Among various positive points they make, S&P states that "Erie's budgetary flexibility is very strong" and they consider General Fund reserves "very strong". They also state in their report that the Town has "very strong

liquidity", that the Town's budgetary performance is "strong" and that the Town's management conditions are viewed as "strong".

**RESPONSIBLE DEBT MANAGEMENT:** During the period of 2004 through 2009 the Town issued over \$100 million in debt. Total debt outstanding is currently approximately \$97 million. As those familiar with municipal financing know, just because it's debt doesn't mean it's bad. Still, \$97 million is a big number. The Town's job now and for the foreseeable future is to diligently manage our resources and service that debt. And rest assured we are doing just that.

Twice since taking office as Mayor in April of 2014, the Town has refunded (refinanced) portions of our water debt to achieve better interest rates AND SAVE RESIDENTS MONEY! As recently as October of this year, the Town refinanced Water Enterprise Revenue Refunding Bonds, issued originally in 2007. Due to strong demand and market conditions, actual savings over the life of the bonds will be \$1,606,000; 27% more in savings than we originally projected.

**DIVERSIFYING OUR REVENUE BASE:** By now you should know (because I keep repeating it) that a King Soopers Marketplace is coming to Erie. First, I want to thank you for your patience as you've waited while the Town has been hard at work to attract retailers. Not only have you waited for additional local shopping opportunities – you've waited for the opportunity to have your hard earned dollars go back directly into our local economy. The annually renewable sales tax revenues generated by the King Soopers Marketplace at Vista Ridge will go a long way towards diversifying our economy.

We are also moving forward with "Nine Mile Corner" a 50 acre retail center at Highway 287 and Arapahoe Road and "Four Corners" a planned 45 acre mixed-use development that includes 14.5 acres of community commercial to accommodate the type of neighborhood retail our community has been craving for years.

So whether you are like me and have lived here for years or whether you've just recently moved here – I hope you now understand why I say Erie is a great investment.

Honestly, I would not trade places with any other city or town inside or outside of Colorado. Not one. There are those who would disagree with me I'm sure, but the fact is – there's just so much good that's happening in Erie right now, even the harshest critic deep down inside wants to be a part of the Erie success story.

It is an honor to serve as your Mayor.

Sincerely, Mayor Tina Harris

### TOWN OF ERIE COMPLETE PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVIES FOR 2016

Town of Erie Property Tax Mill Levies for 2016: **16.419**

- General Operating Funds: 7.288 (\$203.04\*)
- Trails & Natural Areas Acquisition: 4.000 (\$111.44\*)
- Erie Community Center Construction Bond: 4.387 (\$122.22\*)
- Erie Police Station & Municipal Court Building Construction Bond: 0.744 (\$20.73\*)

\*Example: If you own a home with an actual value of \$350,000, your total Town of Erie Mill Levy for 2016 would be \$457.43.



# MEDICATION TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

The Town of Erie is offering a new service for residents, making it easier for you to dispose of your unused and unwanted household medications. This Medication Take-Back Program will run from Monday, January 11, 2016 through Monday, June 13, 2016.

There are two options for Erie residents to participate in the Medication Take-Back Program:



1. Purchase a pre-paid envelope at the Police Station and mail your unwanted medications.
2. Pick-up a free, pre-paid envelope at the Annual Spring Clean-Up on Saturday, May 7, 2016. (Available to the first 50 participants)

### WHY USE THE MEDICATION TAKE-BACK PROGRAM?

- Offers Erie residents a way to clear your home of the medications which are no longer needed.
- Safety of loved ones! Unused medications could fall into the hands of small children and cause accidental poisoning.
- Protect our environment. Flushing or trash disposal of unused and unwanted medications can cause pollution of lakes, streams and water supplies.

### OPTION 1: PURCHASE A PRE-PAID ENVELOPE AT THE POLICE STATION

#### How does it work?

1. Residents purchase a TakeAway Medication Recovery System envelope at the Erie Police Station
2. Fill the prepaid, tamper-evident envelope with medications, including controlled substances (Schedules II-V)
3. Seal the envelope with the special tamper-evident seal
4. Drop off at any U.S. Postal Office



The envelope costs \$4.20, available for purchase at the Erie Police Station Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### OPTION 2: PICK-UP A FREE, PRE-PAID ENVELOPE AT THE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

#### How does it work?

Erie residents can pick-up a FREE, pre-paid envelope at the Leon A. Wurl Service Center during the Annual Spring Clean-Up held on Saturday, May 7, 2016. This offer will be available to the first 50 Erie residents during this event.

1. Residents pick-up a TakeAway Medication Recovery System envelope at the Spring Clean-Up
2. Fill the prepaid, tamper-evident envelope with medications, including controlled substances (Schedules II-V)
3. Seal the envelope with the special tamper-evident seal
4. Drop off at any U.S. Postal Office

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS NEW PROGRAM VISIT [WWW.ERIECO.GOV/POLICE](http://WWW.ERIECO.GOV/POLICE)

## CHRISTMAS TREE MULCH AVAILABLE!



Beginning Wednesday, January 13, 2016 (weather permitting), the Parks Division will mulch all of the Christmas trees that have been recycled and leave the mulch at Coal Creek Park (at the intersection of Cheesman and Kattell) for the public to remove and use free of charge. The mulch will be on a first come, first served basis through Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

For more information, contact the Parks Division at 303-926-2887.

## 2016 BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL NOTICE

Attention **COMMERCIAL, RETAIL, SERVICE BUSINESS** or **HOME OCCUPATION** License Holders:

Your 2015 Business License with the Town of Erie, Colorado expired on December 31, 2015.

If you are seeking to renew your license for 2016, please complete and submit the Business License Renewal Form or Home Occupation License Renewal Form that was mailed to you recently.

### ATTENTION ALL BUSINESSES:

Erie Municipal Code requires anyone doing business in the Town to be licensed by the Town. If you have not done so already, please complete and submit the applicable Business License Application or Home Occupation License Application today. General Business Licenses are \$50.00 per year, and Home Occupation Licenses are \$25.00 per year. Please make checks payable to the Town of Erie. Credit card payments can be taken over the phone at 303-926-2700, but we will still need to receive the completed application.

Contact Hallie Sawyer at 303-926-2770 or email [hsawyer@erieco.gov](mailto:hsawyer@erieco.gov) if you have any questions about Businesses Licenses in Town.



# 2016 SPECIAL EVENTS

## SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

### JANUARY

14 - Town of Erie Projects Open House

### FEBRUARY

11 - Small Business Summit\*

### APRIL

16 - 9Health Fair

30 - Arbor Day & Earth Day Celebration

### MAY

7 - Spring Clean-Up

7 - Fishing Clinic

21 - Erie Town Fair & Balloon Festival\*

28 - Concert in the Park\*

### JUNE

4 - National Trails Day

- Relay for Life\*

11 - Erie Brewfest\*

18 - Concert in the Park\*

25 - Movie in the Park



### JULY

3 - July 3rd Extravaganza at Colorado National Golf Club\*

4 - Colorado Firecracker 4k/4 mile race

9 - Concert in the Park\*

23 - Concert in the Park\*

### AUGUST

2 - National Night Out

6 - Rocky Mountain Kids Triathlon

6 - Concert in the Park

13 - Erie Air Fair\*

### SEPTEMBER

2 - Coal Miners Classic\*

10 - Fall Clean-Up

10 - Movie in the Park

10-11 - The Great Erie Outdoor Adventure

17 - Biscuit Day\*

### OCTOBER

1 - Miner's Blast\*

29 - Trunk or Treat

29 - Eerie Erie\*

### DECEMBER

2 - Country Christmas & Parade of Lights\*

## PARKS & RECREATION CORNER

### SAVE THE DATE!

Camp Erie Registration is just around the corner!

**FULL SUMMER DISCOUNT DAYS!:**  
Monday, February 29 - Sunday, March 13

10%-Off Full Summer Price!  
\$1,575

Full Summer Registration Price  
After March 13: \$1,750

#### WEEKLY REGISTRATION

Opens Monday, March 28: \$179 per week

#### DAILY REGISTRATION (NO THURSDAYS)

Opens Monday, April 18: \$55 per day

#### THURSDAY ONLY REGISTRATION

Opens Monday, May 9: \$69 per day

#### NEW THIS YEAR!

Camp registration will close on Thursday, May 19! New campers **WILL NOT BE** accepted beyond this date. All camp forms are due on Thursday, May 19. Camper's will not be permitted into the summer camp program until all forms are complete and turned in.

#### CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 "Like" the Town of Erie on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/townoferiecolorado](http://www.facebook.com/townoferiecolorado)

 Follow the Town of Erie on Twitter  
[@ErieColorado](https://twitter.com/ErieColorado)

 Share your ideas and give feedback  
[engage.erieco.gov](http://engage.erieco.gov)

 Watch the Town of Erie's videos  
[youtube.com/eriecolorado](http://youtube.com/eriecolorado)

 Learn more about working for the Town of Erie  
[engage.erieco.gov](http://engage.erieco.gov)

\* These events are run by other organizations and are sponsored and/or endorsed by the Town of Erie.



View the **GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS** page on our website to learn more about having your event sponsored or endorsed by the Town of Erie.

Contact the Town Clerk at 303-926-2731 for more information.

For more information & to view the full 2016 Special Events Calendar, visit [www.erieco.gov/specialevents](http://www.erieco.gov/specialevents)