

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Doug Tisdale

**“THIS YEAR’S GREEN!”** Spring has arrived in Cherry Hills Village. The crocuses are beginning to stick their new green heads out of the soil. The grass is starting to wake up from a long winter slumber, refreshed by some recent welcome snowfalls. The trees are beginning to bud. The streets are being swept clean of the sand and leaves that have accrued there over the winter.

And all of this takes water. Lots of water. Lots and lots of water.

Denver Water has recently announced severe watering restrictions that commenced on April 1. To summarize what you have already heard or read, **Villagers may only water two days per week (Sunday and Thursday if your address is an even number; Saturday and Wednesday if your address is an odd number). And even on those days, you may not water between 10 AM and 6 PM.**

This seems harsh. And it is harsh. But it is necessary. We have to act as responsibly as we possibly can to address the Stage 2 Drought that we are in this year. It has been eleven years since we saw a drought this bad...and this one is worse than that last one. So I encourage each one of our residents to be conservation minded, and to be as “minimalist” as possible in irrigating lawns this summer. If you look at your water bill over the course of a year, you will note that you use much more water in the summer than you do the rest of the year. By way of example, over the last year I averaged about 2,000 gallons of water usage per month for eight months of the year, and about 71,000 gallons of water per month for the four “lawn watering” months. That’s more than 35 times as much water during the summer. And I don’t need to tell you that the price differential at that level of usage is a lot more than 35 times. I seriously question whether a green lawn is worth it.

So I am asking all Villagers — and all of our organized homeowners’ associations — to consider cutting back their watering plans this summer. I know that we all love to see green lawns. I know that some covenant-controlled communities mandate that we maintain green lawns. But this year, given the severity of the drought we all face here in Colorado, can we please consider changing our attitudes just a little, just for the summer months? Can we please consider adopting a new mantra: Brown: It’s This Year’s Green—In More Ways Than One!

That said, your City officials continue to work aggressively with Denver Water to ensure that our large lot sizes are not unduly penalized and that reduction in water usage (on a year-over-year basis) is rewarded.

**MAYOR’S COMPETITION UPDATE.** I am pleased to announce that we had a terrific response from our schools for the Mayor’s Competition for student-produced videos celebrating the beauty, history, legacy and value of the High Line Canal Trail. **THANK YOU** to the almost two dozen hard working students who worked on this great project! We are now embarking on the difficult and challenging job of judging these masterpieces, so that we can dole out over \$2,500 in prize money! And speaking of prize money, Patxi’s Pizza of Cherry Hills (located in Kent Place at University and Hampden) has named Wednesday, April 17 as “Cherry Hills Village Day!” Ten percent (10%) of all store revenues (from dine-in, take-out, take-and-bake, delivery, gift certificates and bar receipts) will be donated toward prize money for the competition! If you ever wanted to try out Patxi’s delicious deep-dish (or even gluten-free!) pizza, April 17 is the perfect day to do it! Support our kids! And thanks again to Peter Niederman, The Kentwood Company, Kevin and Mary McNicholas, Arapahoe County Open Space and Chase Bank at Kent Place for their prize money contributions! Your generous gifts are greatly appreciated!

**MORE NATIONAL ATTENTION.** You will recall that *The Wall Street Journal* reported last September that Cherry Hills Village was rated the #1 Best Suburb of America in Which to Live. In March of this year, *Forbes Magazine* reported that the Village is the #6 Most Affluent City in America. While this is an impressive accolade, I particularly appreciated the comment of one Villager on my Facebook page (where I posted the *Forbes* article), who said, “It’s not affluence that makes us fabulous. It’s a sense of community!” That is a great observation!

**PENDING LITIGATION.** I know that some of you have seen reports of an employment lawsuit filed against the City recently. For obvious reasons, I cannot comment on that litigation at length here. It is appropriate and fair, however, for your Mayor to assure you that the City of Cherry Hills Village categorically refutes both the allegations and any liability associated with these employment matters. We intend to defend vigorously against these workplace claims brought by a few former employees. And no matter what, our residents should remain confident in the professionalism and excellent standards of service exemplified by our Police Department and by all of our city employees. Any further comments on this matter will come through the Village’s Public Information Officer (PIO), Pete Webb, who can be reached at 303-796-8888. Please understand that your elected and appointed officials, and City staff, are not in a position to discuss this matter.

I hope you all have a very pleasant spring. And remember ... Brown: It’s This Year’s Green—In More Ways than One!

Mayor Doug Tisdale