

Kingdom Chronicle

New Laws In Colorado To Ring in 2025

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

As the new year approaches, Colorado residents should prepare for several legislative changes taking effect on January 1, 2025. Here's an overview of the ones that will impact your everyday life the most:

Cage-Free Eggs Now Mandatory

Starting January 1, all eggs sold in Colorado must come from cage-free facilities. This mandate, passed in 2020, also requires producers in Colorado with more than 3,000 hens to maintain a cage-free environment. These new regulations were passed by the legislator under threat from an animal advocacy group that promised to introduce a ballot measure if lawmakers didn't act.

Hands-Free Driving Becomes Law

To combat distracted driving, hand-held phone use while driving is now completely prohibited. While texting while driving was already banned, it will now also be illegal to make calls while holding a phone. Hands-free technology is required, with exceptions for emergencies. Violators face a \$75 fine for the first offense and a two-point deduction from their license, with harsher penalties for repeat infractions.

Stricter Car Seat Rules

For families, child car seat regulations are tightening. Children under 2 years old who weigh less than 40 pounds must now use rear-facing seats. Forward-facing seats are allowed for children aged 2 to 4 who weigh at least 20 pounds, while booster seats are only permitted for kids aged 4 to 9 who weigh at least 40 pounds. Regular seat belts can be used starting at age 9, a one year change to the current law allowing seat belts starting age 8. In summary, car seat regulations will look as follows from now on:

- Under 2 years old and <40 lbs: Must use rear-facing car seats.

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Kingdom Chronicle Updates

BY KYLE GONZALEZ
Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief

Have you ever wanted to do more than just read about the Godly news that the Kingdom Chronicle reports on? We provide our readers with many ways to engage with their community, to include attending official meetings. In addition, if you have ever wanted to learn journalism skills, such as how to conduct interviews, we are looking to fill some important roles in our team.

If you feel the call to write for a journalistic endeavor with a faith-based focus, please contact us via editor@kingdomchronicle.news. We can develop your skills through practical application as an Investigative Journalist. Also, if you find our content to be a blessing, have suggestions for us, or feedback (to include testimonies) please send us an email at editor@kingdomchronicle.news. I pray that you all have a blessed day.

Calling All Intercessors: Join Us For Strategic Prayer

BY AMANDA LOCKMAN
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Are you passionate about standing in the gap through prayer? We invite you to join us for Governmental Intercession, where we pray and intercede for everything from our local city council and school board to the nation of Israel.

When: Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 PM

Where: Java Haus Conference Room

Additionally, we are gathering for intercession focused specifically on our public library and community. Your prayers are vital in these challenging times!

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:15-6:45 PM

Where: Downstairs of the library, first room on your left as you enter from the lower level

Please note, we start and end on time as there are events scheduled after each prayer meeting. Don't be late—every minute of prayer counts! Come, let's unite in prayer and make a difference.



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- 2-4 years and ≥ 20 lbs: Can use forward-facing seats in the back seat (if available).
- 4-9 years and ≥ 40 lbs: Booster seats permitted.
- Age 9+: Children may transition to regular seat belts.

Secure Gun Storage in Vehicles

Gun owners must also take note of stricter firearm storage requirements. Handguns stored in unattended vehicles must now be locked in hard-sided containers out of view. Other firearms can be secured in soft-sided containers if locked. The rules include exceptions for hunters, peace officers, and others, but generally aim to reduce firearm thefts and enhance safety.

Minimum Wage Increase

The minimum wage will rise to USD \$14.81 per hour, a 2.7% increase up from USD \$14.42 in 2024. For tipped workers, the new rate will be USD \$11.79 per hour. These adjustments reflect inflation through the Consumer Price Index. In comparison, the federal minimum wage remains at a stagnant 2009 rate of USD \$7.25.



[HTTPS://WWW.CITY-WOODLANDPARK.ORG/400/CITIZENS-ACADEMY](https://www.city-woodlandpark.org/400/citizens-academy)

<https://woodlandpark.gov/400/Citizens-Academy>

Communion, Christmas and Thanks – A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Merry Christmas all! This time of year is my favorite for so many reasons. We get to celebrate the birth of Jesus, which is huge. We celebrate this time to remember what He has done for us. I've found myself being reminded of the cross more and more by the Holy Spirit in the last month or so. The cross changed everything for mankind, and needing to be reminded of that is just sad. You have likely seen this verse before but below is Luke 22:19

'And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Wow. "Do this in remembrance of me". Why remember? Well, in my own life, I've learned why the hard way. Life gets so "busy" as we all say, especially around this time of year, that I never really stopped to remember Him. I think the quote I heard recently says it really well, it says, "Jesus didn't die for you to get the benefits and forget the sacrifice".



Remembering is honoring. Jesus died so that we could reap it's benefits, but we are also here to honor Him, to fear Him. We are blessed beyond measure, the bible says so, but when was the last time we sat with Him and remembered what He did, thanking Him for it? What I am not trying to do is guilt trip you into this. That would be a waste of time. What I want to convey is just how powerful, important, and radical Jesus' life was. What Jesus did was so selfless, so loving, how can we not fear Him? Honestly, taking time for this has personally led me to an even greater attitude of thanksgiving and let me tell you, it's so much better. Constantly looking for things to be thankful for is SUCH a mindset shift. This Christmas, I want to encourage you to leave more time for this, for communion. I promise it will lead to greater revelation and greater honor.

Emmanuel, Who Brought Me Out Of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light

BY CHRISTY ENG
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Is a circumstance in your life telling you God doesn't care about you? I am here to stand with you brothers and sisters to call out the lie.

Are people cruel and harsh and cold? It is not Jesus, beloved. He is still here with you, though. Here I come again to tell you that Jesus loves you. It is a truth I need to hear again and again as He draws us closer each time we recognize that fact.

Jesus, we give you our hurts and sorrows and sins and shortcomings again. You are the tender-hearted one. Who is always with me and always working for my good.

When I was at my lowest, dear readers, I was a shell of a person. Everything that made me me had been stripped away in a targeted attack of spiritual darkness and it stole all my joy and peace and desire to live. Men spoke to no effect. Many tried to help and none could succeed, but one man, after their efforts after the flesh and their best advice asked if it helped. I told him frankly and with no malice, "No, it didn't." He got quiet and turned to the Lord and came back with this one word, "Emmanuel."

He had arrived. In a living word that spoke to my soul. It was even the truth that the One who made the stars was with me. If He had given me all that I was then, He could restore all that I was. My heart resonated like a tuning fork in the smallest degree, but I knew it was a growing thing and I immediately clung onto that word like a drowning man to a life raft.

Everything is from Him, beloved, every good and perfect gift. What is more is that He is wanting to be with you; this being of pure goodness and love desires to be with you, beloved. I encourage you this Christmas to be with Him. To not merely hear about Him, or talk about Him, but take time to talk to Him. Ask a question to Him like you would to a friend. Listen to His word. Trust that it is the best thing for you and do what is stirred in your heart.

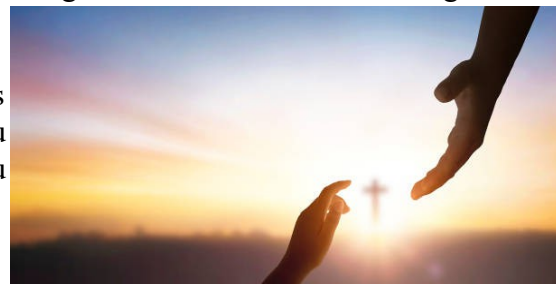
He is the I AM. The Always. He is the God of the moment by moment. The God of suddenly. The God of now. He restored me, moment by moment. Now I am known by others for my great peace and joy. Even when things aren't going good, God is always good.

"In this world you will have tribulation, but take heart, I have overcome the world." - Jesus

Emmanuel brought me out of the darkness into His marvelous light. I am praying this same light for you this Christmas. That you would see Emmanuel. The God who is so constant, so faithful and so good.

Be encouraged Brethren. God has not forgotten you. He is right by your side. He longs to be with you and to see you at peace in Him. Come enter His rest this Christmas.

Your fellow sister in Christ,
Christy



Raise Your Voice! BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI *Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Upcoming Community Dates:

- ◆ 12/15/2024, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.
- ◆ 12/17/2024, 9:15 a.m.: County Commissioners meeting at 112 North A Street in Cripple Creek.
- ◆ 12/17/2024, 6:15-6:45 p.m.: Prayer meeting for our library (Woodland Park library, first room on the left when entering from lower level).
- ◆ 12/19/2024, noon: Application deadline for the two vacant Woodland Park Board of Adjustment alternate positions, open Board of Review positions, four regular positions on the city's Planning Commission, as well as the Charter Review Committee.
- ◆ 12/19/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave. *pre-briefing and prayer at 6 p.m. at the Memorial Park flagpole.
- ◆ 12/20/2024: Application deadline for the 2025 Woodland Park Citizens Academy.
- ◆ 12/22/2024, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.
- ◆ 12/29/2024, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.

The “New” Democracy BY KATE GORELOVA Kingdom Chronicle Staff

You have an idea - you make it work
 You get a great profit from work that you did
 But then the society - at your money looks
 And says you must share them - It's “Equality” called

It seems so unfair - to you it's not right
 But they try to silence you, they tell you this:
 Unfairness is capitalism and it is bad
 It workers exploits and few just get rich

But it's my idea - you try to explain
 I have this invented and people this bought
 Why is it so wrong and of me it's seen evil
 That I made a profit, don't I have this right?

But they do not listen and names they call you
 You're just a supremacist, you're racist, you're this
 You just exploit others- just to get rich!
 But all of these statements are simply not true

They could not get communism here by force
 So they introduced it by agendas they took
 In schools they taught children: Capitalism is bad
 But socialism is something that's equal and good

They then took ideas of socialists, communists
 And called them equality, as something that's good
 And packaged ideas like this in a box
 And then wrote “DEMOCRACY” on that big box

To all of you thinking- It's not yet this bad
 Remember they're teaching the children this stuff
 Of favor of socialism many students are now
 Because it's presented as something that's good

Coming Up @ Your City Council Meeting: BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Please find the current agenda and supporting documents on the city's website:

<https://woodlandparkco.portal.civicclerk.com/>

We encourage you to attend these public meetings and voice your opinion during public comment. Also, please email your council-members to make sure your voice is heard. Even a few emails have a tremendous impact on the council-member preparing for these meetings.



Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:

bitcreed
 bitcreed.us

Agile Project management, apps, security audits, recruiting, etc.
 Contact us at info@bitcreed.us for a free initial consulting.

Your partner in all software matters


Your Money Makeover
 FIX YOUR MONEY FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Yourmoneymakeover.com

Open Positions on Various City Committees

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

The City of Woodland Park is currently accepting applications for various open positions on different committees. These committees perform important work in our city and most of them meet once or twice a month, provided there are agenda items to be dealt with. This is an excellent way to get involved as citizens and shape the decisions and policies of our city.

Board of Adjustment

The Woodland Park Board of Adjustment (BOA) is a seven-member quasi-judicial board consisting of five regular members plus two alternate members all appointed by City Council to three-year (or vacated member incomplete) terms. The BOA conducts public hearings upon submittal of a request to vary zoning or of a request to appeal an administrative decision.

Applicants must be available to meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in-person or virtually, must be at least eighteen years old, a city resident for not less than one year, and possess qualifications that are compatible with the Board's purpose and authority.

There are currently 2 alternate positions open on this board with terms that will expire on January 1, 2028.

Board of Review

The Board of Review (BOR) is focused on the application and interpretation of the Pikes Peak Regional Building Code as adopted and set forth in Chapter 15.02 of the Municipal Code. The BOR hears and decides appeals of order, decisions or determinations made by the Building Official, grants minor variances, and hears complaints regarding licensed contractors. The BOR is a Council-appointed 5-member quasi-judicial board (complete with two additional alternate members) with each member serving 3-year terms.

Applicants must be available to meet on the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m., must be at least eighteen years old; and possess qualifications that are compatible with the Committee's purpose and authority.

The term of this open position will end on January 1, 2028.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is a nine-member advisory board established to assist the City Council in

providing for orderly development within the City of Woodland Park. The Planning Commission conducts public hearings related to new subdivisions, zoning changes, conditional use permits, flood hazard development permits, and changes to the Subdivision or Zoning Regulations. The Planning Commission is also charged with preparation and amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Applicants must be available to meet on the second and fourth Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. of each month in person or virtually, be at least eighteen years old; a city resident for not less than one year and possess qualifications that are compatible with the Board's purpose and authority.

There are four regular member positions available with the terms expiring on January 1, 2028.

Charter Review Committee

The Charter Committee is an ad-hoc committee established by the City Council on average every two years, in order to review the City's charter and discuss suggested amendments to be put on the next suitable ballot for citizens to vote on.

The Charter Committee is made up of two councilmembers, two – four citizens, the City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney. The council may appoint a minimum of two positions with a maximum of four positions to this Committee. These positions will expire in February of 2026. Interested applicants for this position must be a City resident for a minimum of one year prior to appointment, 18 years of age and be available to meet on a monthly basis.

Application forms for all open positions are available on the City's [website](#) or at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, 220 West South Avenue in Woodland Park. Completed applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office and may be delivered via email to sleclercq@woodlandpark.gov; or delivered by mail to the City Clerk at PO Box 9007, Woodland Park, CO 80866 not later than **noon, on Thursday, December 19, 2024**. Please contact City Clerk, Suzanne Leclercq, at the City Clerk's office 719 687-5295 with any questions.

A Christmas Song - “Let Heaven and Nature Sing”

BY JULIA LEE
Kingdom Chronicle Staff



It was almost Christmas, but I was not mindful of it as I stood looking out the window watching light snow beginning to fall. My heart lifted briefly then fell again. I would have normally danced around the room like a small child because snow was so special to me. However tonight only silent tears fell from my eyes as I stood staring at the snow with great sadness. I turned to gaze at my father sleeping in his chair and for a moment my eyes met my brother's eyes who was sitting beside my dad holding his hand. Our pain was shared in that moment for we both were worried that our dad would be leaving for heaven soon. We had done everything we knew how to do in the hope that he would remain with us. “I will see you early in the morning and if you need me, please call me, I am not far away,” I said as I turned to leave. It was my brother's night to stay with him and he would stay through the night with our dad, and he would sit beside him all night holding his hand. My heart hurt so much that I could not breathe as I turned and walked out of the room.

I was unable to sleep that night, so early the next morning I walked back into my dad's room and as I looked at him and my brother, I heard the most beautiful sound filling the room. “What is that sound?” I asked my brother. He looked at me with a small smile and said, “Look out the window there is a huge bird sitting on the bush.” My dad's reclining chair was directly in front of that window. The most beautiful notes filled the room and the bird's song was unlike any I have ever heard. I did not even know birds could sing like that. “The bird has been singing all night and has not stopped once,” my brother said as he gazed back at our dad. I stood there amazed at the beautiful song coming from this large bird. The bird's song filled every space of the room with a melody so extraordinary that it was hard to believe what I was hearing. “I believe it is meadowlark but a really big one,”

my brother said as he closed his fatigued eyes. My dad coughed several times and we both looked at him as a hospice nurse came into the room with medication to keep him comfortable. Within the hour my dad left for heaven and the moment he passed the bird flew away and we heard his song no more. In my grief I forgot about the bird's song, and it would be years later before I would begin to understand the importance of the bird's magnificent song.

Three years had passed, and Christmas Day was approaching, and I was driving my car when the song “Joy to the World” came on the radio. My heart quickened, and I started to cry when I heard “Let heaven and nature sing” because in that moment I remembered the meadowlark's song and the morning when my dad left for heaven. I began to wonder about the bird's song and why it was so extraordinary. As I recalled the beauty of the song the bird was singing, I realized the bird was rejoicing because its melody was of joy. How could it be that God's creation had come to sing and rejoice in a time of great sorrow for me. What had I missed? What did I not understand? The song on the radio continued to play and the words filled my car and my heart,

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.”

While I do not fully understand all the significance of the bird's singing, I do believe the song of meadowlark was a song of rejoicing because Jesus had made a way for my dad to return to his heavenly home and be reconciled with our loving Father. I can hear the meadowlark's song clearly now and it was a song of welcome, a song of worship, and it was a song of Christmas for the greatest gift we will ever receive was born in the earth to save us and give us eternal life – it was a song of Jesus. I am certain that when my dad stepped into the presence of our Lord Jesus, he knew exactly why the meadowlark was singing. My encouragement this Christmas is let us rejoice with all of heaven and nature for truly our Salvation is born and His name is Jesus, Christ our Lord.