



Economic Development & Workforce Council Newsletter

2025| November

Our Top Story: Inaugural State of Estes Planned for December 3rd

STATE OF ESTES PARK

December 3, 8AM-11AM

Location:

YMCA of the Rockies

Join community leaders, business owners, and local officials for the annual State of Estes Park address. We will review milestones, discuss economic and tourism trends, and outline exciting initiatives shaping our town's future.

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Community leaders, business owners, and local officials are preparing for the inaugural State of Estes Park address on December 3rd at the YMCA of the Rockies.

“The State of Estes will be a comprehensive review of local milestones, economic and tourism trends, and forward-thinking initiatives shaping our town’s future; we expect it to be an exciting event,” said Chamber President Colleen DePasquale.

Speakers will include: Estes Park Mayor Gary Hall, County Commissioner Shadduck

McNally, Platte River Power Authority General Manager/CEO Jason Frisbie, Economic Development & Workforce Council Chair Christina Kraft, Visit Estes Park Operations Director Rebecca D. Gelsinger and CEO Sarah Leonard, Chamber outgoing Chair Keith Pearson, Chamber incoming Chair Breeyan Edwards, and more.

The State of Estes event is made possible by Title Sponsor Platte River Power Authority and generous support from Bank of Estes Park and Visit Estes Park.

“Platte River is proud to support one of our owner communities through sponsoring the inaugural State of Estes Park event,” shares Jason Frisbie, general manager

and CEO for Platte River Power Authority. "As your wholesale public power provider, we look forward to hearing about the business community's progress and goals and how Platte River can further support the Town of Estes Park."

During the event, local businesses will also be present to introduce attendees to their latest, most exciting offers. Some of those vendors include: Backbone Adventures, Rocky Mountain Conservancy, KMAC Guides, Black Canyon Inn & Estes Park Condos.

Attendance fees are \$20 per person, which includes the breakfast buffet. The State of Estes address will take place on Wednesday Dec 3rd from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM, with a breakfast buffet beginning at 8:15 AM.

[Reserve Your Seat](#)

Upcoming Events



Don't worry if you haven't read the book - a summary will be provided and the discussion is more about topics than the book itself...it's an 'Un' Book Club!

Discussion sessions will be:

Coffee & Books at InkWell & Brew: November 13th from 8:30am -10:00am

Books & Brews at RockCut Brewery: November 19th from 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Book Club: "Dare to Lead" Discussion Sessions Planned for November

This fall, we're diving into Brené Brown's *Dare to Lead* — a powerful exploration of what it really means to lead with courage, connection, and heart.

Brown challenges us to rethink leadership not as titles or power, but as the ability to **step up, be brave, and foster trust**. Through stories, research, and practical tools, she shows how vulnerability is not a weakness, but the path to stronger teams, deeper relationships, and lasting impact.

If you've ever wondered how to lead with authenticity (at work, in your community, or even at home), this book offers inspiration and actionable steps. Come ready to reflect, share, and maybe even get a little uncomfortable — because that's where growth begins.



[See the results](#)

National Community Survey Results

The NCS report is about the "livability" of Estes Park. The results will support community planning activities for years to come.

Of note, more than 80% of residents rated Estes Park positively as a desirable place to live. Click the button below to read the full report results and compare to prior years.



Government Shutdown Impacts for Northern Colorado Businesses

Your experiences are important to state organizations.

Economic Development partners across Northern Colorado need to understand how the Federal Government shutdown is affecting your business.

Your input will help us identify the real challenges businesses in our region are facing and inform how we can best support you, connect you to resources and/or advocate for support at the local, state, and federal levels.

[Share Your Thoughts](#)



Boots to Business Reboot

]Wednesday, Nov 19, 2025
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Veterans have the character, discipline and skills needed to succeed as small business owners and entrepreneurs. Wondering what it takes and how you can prepare? Enroll in Boots to Business Reboot.



Scale Smarter: Make it Accelerator

Deadline: Nov 14th

Are you a small manufacturer ready to grow smarter? The **Make It Accelerator** is a 4-month hybrid program designed to help you move from stuck to strategic.

Led by The **Warehouse Business Accelerator**, this program delivers expert coaching, peer support, and a clear roadmap to scale your business sustainably.

What You Get:

- Cohort-based learning + 1:1 mentorship
- Manufacturing driven curriculum
- Strategic growth planning
- One year of post-program support

[Learn More & Apply](#)



How to do business with the State

The State Purchasing and Contracts Office (SPCO) offers free training on a variety of topics for the procurement community.

On November 18, 2025, the State will host a free webinar on how to do business with the State of Colorado.

The course provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. Veterans of all eras, Active Duty Service members (including National Guard and Reserve) and spouses are eligible to participate.

During Reboot, participants are introduced to the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to launch a business, including steps for developing business concepts, how to develop a business plan, and information on SBA resources available to help. The program is facilitated by subject matter experts from the SBA and their extensive network of skilled business advisors

[Learn More](#)

[Learn More](#)



Need help with Federal Agencies?

Tuesday December 9th

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Lory Student Center Market

The Office of U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper is hosting Community Office Hours at Colorado State University. Stop by to meet with constituent advocates who can assist with federal agency services

[Learn More](#)

Larimer County Updates



Hazard Mitigation Planning Survey

Larimer County Hazard Mitigation Planning Public Input Survey

Larimer County is updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan in cooperation with the incorporated cities, towns, districts and partner organizations in the County.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan analyzes the County's vulnerabilities to natural and human-caused hazards, and identifies mitigation actions we can take to lessen the impacts of disasters, minimizing property damage and reducing loss of life. It is updated every 5 years in



New Courses for Emerging Leaders in Architecture, Engineering & Construction

Check-out this comprehensive leadership development program is designed for new and emerging leaders in the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (A/E/C) industries. Running from November through April, the program equips participants with critical business, financial, and leadership skills necessary for success in today's competitive environment.

Also, Front Range is offering additional courses at a discount, through 11/30,

accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

using code LEAFYOURMARK

The purpose of this survey is to collect information from the public and stakeholders to better understand the risks within the County, and to solicit input on how to best mitigate or reduce the impacts of hazards before they occur. The survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

[Learn More](#)

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

[Learn More](#)



It's time for a Merry Mingle

Dec 8 from 4pm to 7pm MST

Warehouse Business Accelerator and Innovation Hub
815 14th Street Southwest, Loveland CO

Join us for an evening of celebration, connection, and discovery at the Warehouse Innovation Hub's annual A Merry Mingle.

This special event brings together innovators, entrepreneurs, partners, and supporters to reflect on the year's achievements and look ahead to what's next.

You won't want to miss our Gingerbread House Competition, where community members will showcase their creativity, collaboration, and holiday spirit in a friendly, hands-on challenge.

[RSVP](#)

EDWC Council Members

Christina Kraft, Bank of Colorado, Market President Estes Park, EDWC Chair
Bill Brown, Estes Park Town Trustee

Jason Damweber, Estes Park, Deputy Town Administrator
Adam Crowe, Larimer County, Economic Development Manager
Rebecca D. Gelsinger, Visit Estes Park, Director of Operations
Nick Smith, Lumpy Ridge Brewing, Owner
Val Thompson, Your Swag Squad
Kevin Benes, Running Wild Events



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