

### **Unemployment Rate Update**

- The unemployment rate in La Plata County was 3.2% in January 2023, 3.3% in February, and 2.7% in March.
- In San Juan County, it was 2.8% in January, 2.9% in February, and 2.8% in March.
- In Archuleta County, it was 3.2% in January, 3.4% in February, and 2.8% in March.
- In Montezuma County, it was 4.7% in January, 4.9% in February, and 3.9% in March.
- In Dolores County, it was 2.5% in January, 2.8% in February, and 2.2% in March.

### **LPC Land Use Code Updates**

- La Plata County is planning to update its Fire, Land Use and Energy Codes. Specifically, staff is proposing to update the County fire code from the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) to the 2015 IFC. They propose minor edits to the County Land Use Code (LUC) for consistency with 2015 IFC. And they propose updating the County energy code from the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to the 2015 IECC.
- Key Takeaways:
  - Water requirements are more flexible
  - Sprinklers requirements are not changing
  - Land Use codes changing bridge and road and access requirements

### **Durango 9R Property Update**

- The City of Durango will buy from the Durango Fire District the 9R Administration building. In exchange, the fire district will get River City Hall and \$3.9M.
- The deal has been approved by the fire district Board of Directors and the Durango City Council.
- Under the proposal, the city would move forward with plans for a civic center complex at the former 9-R buildings, which would include space for city departments, in particular the police department, as well as potential public space. The fire district would move forward with its plans to redevelop the River City Hall site as a new fire station. The city will retain ownership of Veterans Park, the Animas River Trail and public parking at River City Hall by subdividing those areas from the larger parcel.
- More information is here: <https://www.durangogov.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=3194>

### **Durango Business Improvement District (BID) Update**

- BID will be going to its constituents this November to ask for reapproval of its 2.0 mill levy. BID's funding will sunset in 2025 unless reapproved by eligible voters. Property owners in the BID and businesses in those properties can vote along with any residents within the BID boundaries.

### **Durango Downtown Next Step Project Update**

- The Downtown's Next Step (pedestrian improvement) design project is progressing. The city's design contractor and their subconsultants were able to conduct and finish the site inventory and analysis of the full corridor from 5th street to 14th street over the past several months. Now that the team has a good understanding of what's existing on and under downtown Main Avenue, they can begin to work on the engineering design of the roadway. This first phase will include full engineering design of a block or two for construction. Design is anticipated to be completed this winter. Public meetings for the project are expected later this summer and fall.
- More information is at <https://www.durangogov.org/1661/Downtowns-Next-Step>

### **Durango MidTown Connections Update**

- Durango staff and consultants took public comment at a meeting 5/23 regarding design alternatives for problematic intersections in Durango's MidTown area. The study area includes US 550 at 14th and 15th Streets, the intersection of Florida Road, E3rd Ave, 15th Street, and 13th Street at Main Ave.
- The recommendations are to eliminate left turns from US 550 onto 14th Street, to turn E 2nd Ave into a one way, and to continue to explore a mini-roundabout at the intersection of Florida/E3rd/15th.
- They hope to move forward with a desired design concept by this Fall and finalize the design by early 2024 so that construction could take place in 2026.
- More information is here: <https://www.durangogov.org/1422/MidTown-Safety-and-Connectivity>

## Planning Projects

- Durango Planning Commission approved the Major Site Plan for Mercy Medical Office Building, to be located on the Mercy Regional Medical Center campus north of the hospital. The scaled back 2-story building will be 57,000 square feet with a 236-space parking lot and soft surface trails.
- Durango Planning Commission recommended approval of Florida Road Future Land Use Map Amendments. The city requested the changes in preparation for Durango Crossings, a project that has not formally been submitted yet for review. The changes will mainly impact city-owned parcels and will allow for a public-private partnership project with Durango Crossings for workforce housing. The City has a commitment from them that a minimum of 50% of the units constructed will be restricted as workforce housing in perpetuity. The Future Land Use Map Amendments will go before Durango City Council on June 20th.

## Colorado Legislature

- Passed: HB 1190 - Right of First Refusal - Colorado Assoc of Realtors and the Colorado Chamber of Commerce in coalition with over a dozen other groups are asking the Governor to veto the bill. The bill creates a right of first refusal of a local government to match an acceptable offer for the sale of a residential or mixed-use multifamily property (5 or more units in rural areas, 15 or more in urban areas). Upon receiving notice of intent to sell or of a potential sale of property, a local government has 14 calendar days to preserve its right of first refusal and an additional 60 calendar days to make an offer and must agree to close on the property within 120 calendar days of the execution of an agreement for the sale and purchase of the qualifying property. Prior to the sale of the property, the seller is required to execute and record an affidavit in the real property records of the county in which the property is located certifying that the seller has complied with the right of first refusal requirements.
- Passed: SB 303 - now Proposition HH - property tax relief. If approved by voters in November, it would allow property owners to deduct \$50,000 from their property's value and lower the percentage used in calculating how much is owed. It would also raise the amount of tax dollars the state can keep under TABOR to backfill money local governments would otherwise miss out on, as well as set money aside for the state education fund and a rental assistance program.

## Meetings attended May 4-June 1

5/4 - 3 pm LAC Meeting	5/17 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
5/8 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting	5/18 - 3 pm LAC meeting
5/9 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting	5/22 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission
5/10 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	5/23 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
5/15 - 5 pm Durango Virtual Housing Public Forum	5/23 - 5 pm MidTown Safety & Connectivity Meeting
5/16 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting	5/24 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
5/16 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	5/24 - 10:45 am LPC Study Session
5/16 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	5/25 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission