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CONTENTS



12 Athletes to Watch

A season-long feature highlighting some of the best high school athletes in the area.

BY SEARCH PARKER STAFF

6 | CALENDAR - *Coming Events*

8 | ICYMI - *Around Town*

9 | DOING BUSINESS - *Robeks*

10 | LOCAL LEADER - *John Huffaker*

14 | CUISINE - *The Guide*

ON THE COVER

Conflicted spring along greenspace



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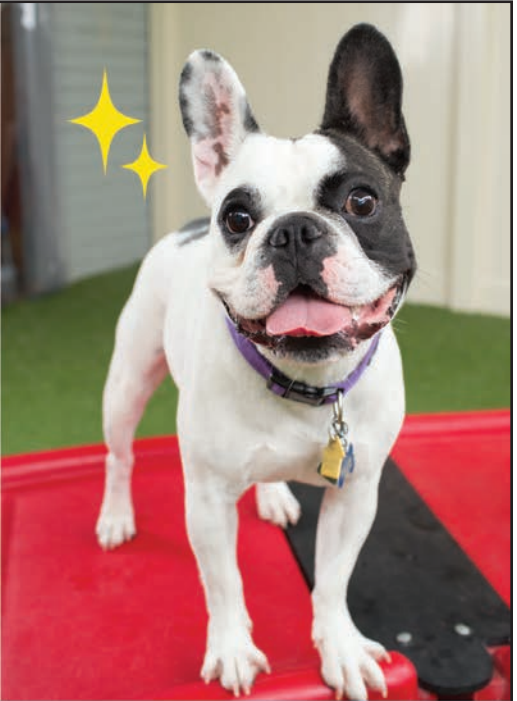
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COMING EVENTS

PHOTOS: TOWN OF PARKER



ShamROCK Stampede

March 14 | 500 Fairgrounds Dr, Castle Rock | 9:00 am

ShamROCK Stampede's mission is to elevate the celebration of St. Paddy's Day with a family-friendly Walk/Run and Irish-themed festival to increase awareness and raise funds for organizations that help our veterans and first responders break free from PTSD and find mental wellness. Visit runtochangelives.org/shamrockstampede.



Spring Musicals

March & April | High Schools

The local high school theater programs will be putting on their spring musicals. Lutheran will be performing *Guys and Dolls*, Chaparral presented *Les Miserables*, Legend headlines *Mean Girls*, and Ponderosa will be presenting *The Spongebob Musical*. Check each respective school's website for dates, times, and more information.



Easter Egg Hunt

April 4 | 10795 Victorian Dr | 10:00 am

The annual Dads of Parker event takes place from 10 am to Noon at O'Brien Park. There will also be a sensory-friendly hunt from 9:15 - 9:45 am that same day. This "eggciting" Easter adventure is fun for the whole family! The event features free activities such as children's egg hunts, pictures with the bunny, fun activities, and sponsor booths!

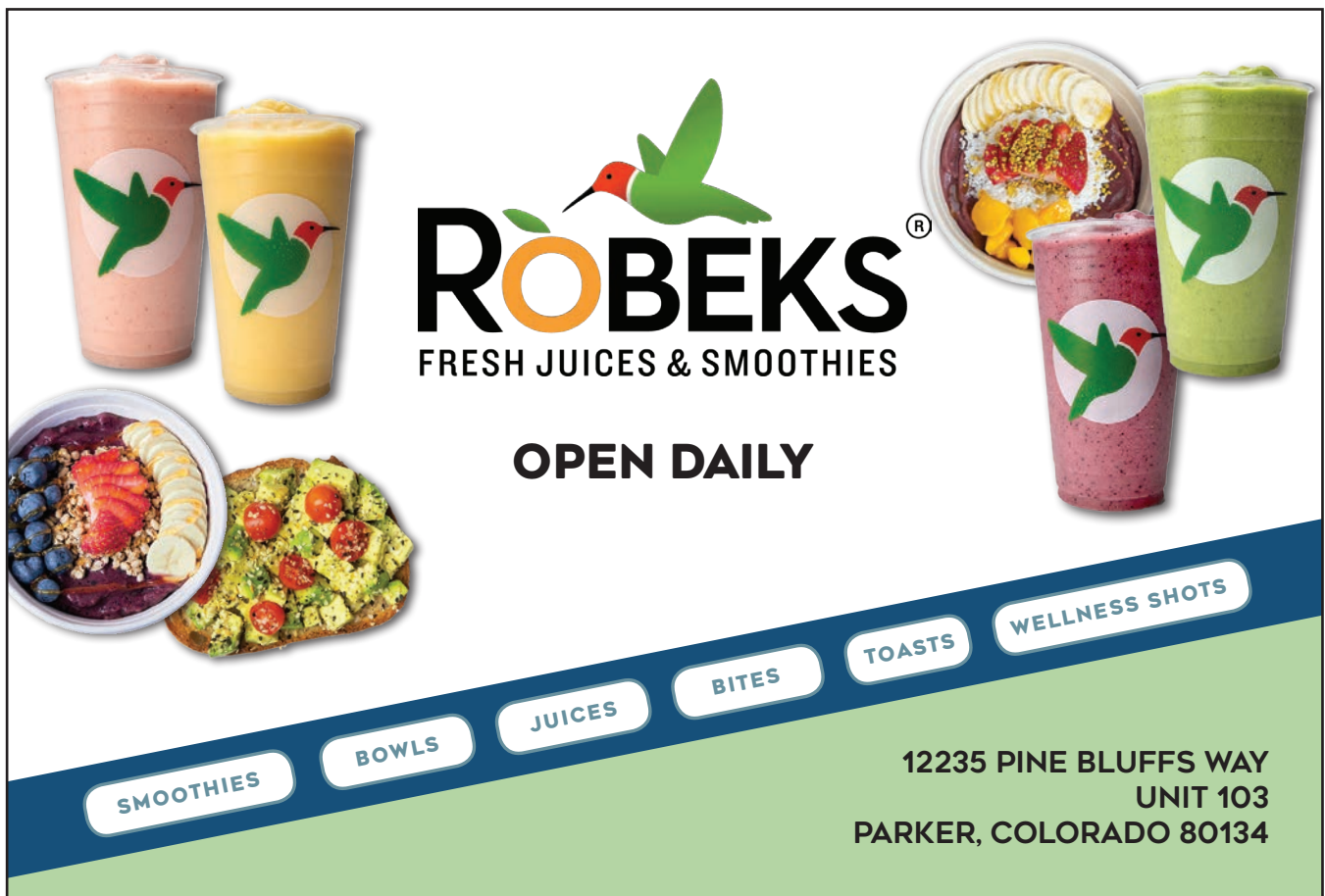


Egg Splash and Dash

April 4 | 17301 E. Lincoln Dr. | 9:00 am

This year, the Easter Bunny is going swimming! Enjoy this twist on the traditional egg hunt as kiddos splash and dash for plastic, fun-filled eggs in the activity pool. Children of all swimming abilities welcome. Hunt for eggs at the beginning of each 50-minute session. Find more information at ParkerRec.com/AquaticsEvents.

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AROUND TOWN

PHOTOS: TOWN OF PARKER



Logo Contest Winner

Congratulations to Kira Parker, winner of the 250/150/45 Logo Contest! You'll see this logo in print and digital forms and at special events throughout 2026 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, 150th anniversary of Colorado's statehood, and 45th anniversary of Parker's incorporation. Its first use will be as the annual sticker design, dropping in March.



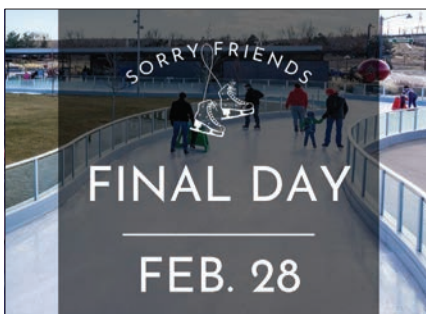
PACE Parking

With more than 290 free spaces (including accessible and EV charging) for all your downtown parking needs, the new multi-level PACE Center parking garage is now open. Planned murals for the exterior walls will be painted later this year. This modern, four-story garage replaces the town's old lot and supports both the PACE Center and downtown events.



Love 'em or Leave 'em 5K/10K

The annual Valentine's Day 5k/10k was run on a crisp morning! The race was held at Salisbury Park and runners were warmed at the finish line with a Flipping' Flapjacks breakfast. This local favorite has continually increased the number of participants, no matter the weather. Thanks to all that came out and shared the brisk air with us!



Closed For Season

The longest Olympic speed skating event was the 10,000 meters. You would have to complete 73 laps along the 450-foot-long Ice Trail at Discovery Park, and you'd have to complete those 73 laps in 12 minutes and 44 seconds to break the Olympic record. It's been a great season at the Ice Trail at Discovery Park, but for now, they are officially closed. See ya next year!

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TOP: OWNERS DARCY HENDRICKS AND DARA FLOWERS
RIGHT: CHILDREN ELISE H. COOPER F. CARSON F. & LILLIE H

DOING BUSINESS

Juiced *with Robeks*

In a town that prizes local roots, Robeks of Parker stands out - not just for its smoothies and acai bowls, but for the four familiar faces behind the counter. For owners Dara and Cliff Flowers and Darcy and Brent Hendricks, this isn't just a franchise. The story of this partnership actually began long before they took ownership in April 2025. Dara and Darcy aren't just business partners; they are sisters. In fact, this quartet seemed destined for this venture dating back to their double wedding in 2000.

From Fans to Owners

After 18 years of raising their families in Parker and sending their kids to Legend and Lutheran High Schools, the couples transitioned from loyal customers to owners in April 2025.

"We were here all the time as customers," Cliff says. "When the opportunity came to buy it, we jumped. We already loved the product; To be able to do something like this with my wife and her sister at this point in our lives is pretty exciting. We were customers here long before we were owners."

More Than Just a Smoothie

While Robeks has a reputation for world-class smoothies, the families are eager to let the community in on a little secret: the food. From their new line of "Harmonious Bites" (premium toast and wraps) to their signature acai bowls, the shop is evolving into a full-service healthy stop for busy Parker families. Because they were fans of the product before they bought the store, the couples maintain a high standard for every order that goes out the door.

A True Community Partner

Perhaps the most impactful part of the Robeks story is their commitment to local youth. Darcy, a former teacher and coach, manages the staff with a focus on mentorship. For many high school students, Robeks is their very first job.

"We take the responsibility of a kid's first job seriously," explains Cliff. "This is their introduction to the real world. We want to teach them character and skills they'll take into college and beyond."

Whether they are sponsoring a local "Wish Week," supporting athletics programs, or hiring the kids they used to see on the sidelines of youth sports, the mission is clear: Community first.

"We want Robeks to be a part of what's going on in Parker. We aren't just a shop in the community; we are a family in the community," Dara emphasises.

Local Leader

JOHN HUFFAKER



John Huffaker

John is the current president of the Rotary Club of Parker. The Parker chapter, consisting of 62 members, has served Parker since its founding in 1993.

John Huffaker was born and raised in Texas, staying in the Lone Star State to graduate from Texas Tech University. He became an attorney and practiced for 38 years in Amarillo, Texas. John became widely known in the state for his experience and expertise in dealing with many aspects of agriculture and agricultural finance law. In 2009, he was appointed to the Texas Tech Board of Regents. Then, in 2012, he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor and General Counsel for Texas Tech University. After retirement in 2018, he and his wife, Charlotte, moved to Colorado to be nearer his two daughters; Lacye, who lives in Aurora, and Shannon, who lives in Albany, California, a suburb of Oakland.

Besides family and profession, John's lifelong passion has been Rotary. With over 46,000 clubs, Rotary International is a network of service clubs serving local communities the world over. Huffaker first became a Rotarian in 1984 and is now completing his 42nd year.

John says that first and foremost, Rotary Clubs are where community members put to use their Rotary motto, "Service above self." In Parker, the club has served the town with projects such as the construction and maintenance of the gazebo in O'Brien Park, assisting many local organizations such as Affinity Ranch and the Parker Task Force, and assisting youth service groups.

When asked about retirement, John says it might not be as sedentary as we are led to believe. "I find this to be true for a lot of retirees. Looking toward retirement, they wonder what they will do with their time and are ultimately surprised by how busy they end up being. That has certainly been true for me. I stay busy with Rotary and our church, the Parker United Methodist Church and, for the last 18 years, I have been deeply involved in conducting a continuing legal education program for agricultural law at the Texas Tech University School of Law."

"But also, my wife and I have enjoyed some wonderful trips, traveling in the United States, Europe and, once, to New Zealand. But the most special trips: We have been able to travel several summers with both our daughters, their husbands and our wonderful grandkids, most recently, last summer, to Costa Rica."

John also says he happily does most of the cooking at home. "You would probably know that, growing up in Texas, we ate a lot of chicken fried steak and gravy, but I have mostly left that behind. These days, I try to keep things healthy. I use a lot of lighter cooking methods, and I do a lot of seafood, chicken and pork. And I do vegetarian dishes fairly often. But I must say, I haven't abandoned all my 'Texas raisin'. Every other week or so, I make a batch of my mother's cornbread, baked in her old cast iron skillet with the perfect patina."

Parker Rotarians are a diverse group of professionals, tradespeople, civic leaders, retirees, stay-at-home parents, neighbors and friends, who:

- Volunteer locally and globally
- Support those in need including youth, seniors and veterans
- Enjoy fellowship through service, socials, and shared values
- Work together to improve lives in Parker and beyond

To learn more about what the rotary does or to become a member visit parkerrotary.org.

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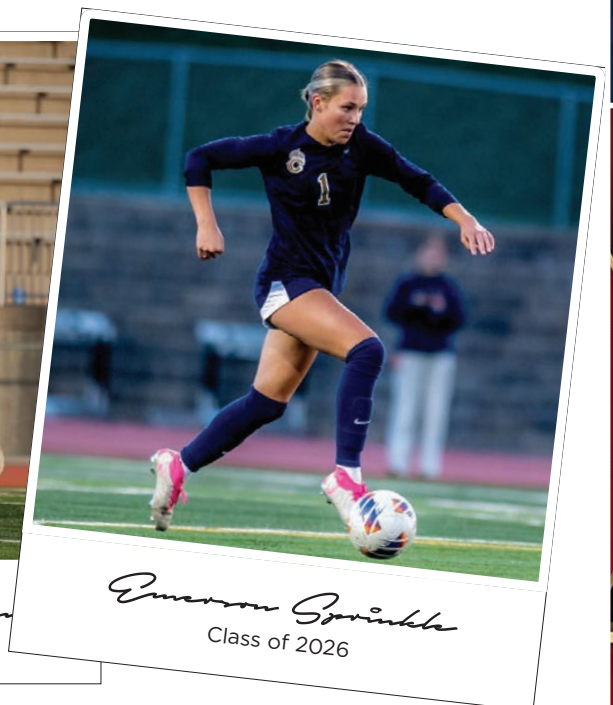
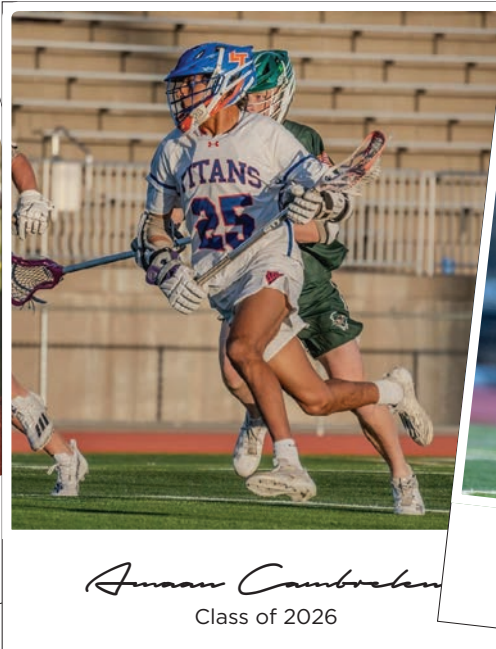
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ATHLETES TO WATCH

Douglas County has some of the best athletes in the country. Many enter their senior seasons with multiple D1 offers to some of the best universities. During this school year, we will highlight some of those athletes, their accomplishments, and their promising futures.



A portrait of Emerson Sprinkle, a young woman with long blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a white Boise State soccer jersey with the number 26. The background features a blue and white hexagonal pattern.

EMERSON SPRINKLE

CHAPARRAL WOLVERINES
SOCCER

The Chap Captain for the past two seasons was named Team MVP in 2025 as well as Co-Offensive MVP in 2023 and 2024. Emerson was a member of the 2025 ECNL National Championship team, earned All-Texas Conference ECNL 2nd Team (2025) honors, and has been a member of the Chaparral State playoff teams in 2023, 2024, and 2025. She has committed to Boise State University.

A portrait of Amaan Cambrelen, a young man with dark curly hair, holding a black STX lacrosse stick over his shoulder. He is wearing a black Ohio State lacrosse jersey with the number 25. The background is a blue hexagonal pattern.

AMAAN CAMBRELEN

LEGEND TITANS
LACROSSE

Amaan has been a two-sport varsity athlete for all four years. He has received several national recognitions and competed in the Men's World Championships U20. He has been a captain for the Titans the past two seasons and currently has his eyes set on the 2028 Olympic team. Amaan received interest from 45 Division 1 universities; he has signed with Ohio State University.

A portrait of Baylor Schultz, a young man with blonde curly hair, smiling. He is wearing a white Ponderosa Mustangs baseball jersey with red pinstripes. The background is a red and gold hexagonal pattern.

BAYLOR SCHULTZ

PONDEROSA MUSTANGS
BASEBALL

Baylor is a three-year starter and leader on the powerhouse program at Ponderosa. Coming off of a recent injury, he looks to continue dazzling as a two-way prospect (left handed pitcher and right fielder). Baylor also excels off the field as a member of the school athletic council while maintaining a 3.6 GPA. Baylor is in the process of deciding where to play after high school but has yet to commit to any university.

THE GUIDE

THE BEST PLACES TO DINE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

In the interest of providing the 50 best dining options in Douglas County, we must be able to personally recommend each listing. The guide is subject to change. If you have a suggestion for inclusion on the list, email us at contribute@tuellers.com.

KEY

Based on a typical dinner for one person, excluding drinks, tax or tip.

\$ Under \$20

\$\$ \$20-\$30

\$\$\$ Over \$35

(EC) Editors Choice

(N) New

ASIAN FUSION

DANCING NOODLE

A small, family owned, dine-in and take-out restaurant that serves authentic homestyle Thai food.

10841 S. Crossroads Dr., Suite 10, Parker
303-805-3880 \$\$

INDOCHINE

A local go-to for quality home-style cuisine. This Parker fixture is known for a fresh, creative menu.

19751 E Mainstreet, Parker
720-851-8559 \$\$

ITO SUSHI ASIAN BISTRO

Asian fusion restaurant known for quality ingredients and fresh fish daily.

2240 Mercantile St #100, Castle Rock
720-749-6777 \$\$ (N)

JOHN HOLLY'S

Chinese and Thai dishes that are nothing less than the culinary equivalent of an exotic adventure.

9232 Park Meadows Dr, Lone Tree
303-768-9088 \$\$



FOGO DE CHÃO

Located in the Park Meadows Mall, off a beautiful outdoor courtyard setting. This Brazilian steakhouse is more than a restaurant; it's an experience. Try the full churrasco (shoo-hah-sko) to enjoy delicious meat cuts brought right to your table! And don't forget the guarana!

JUNZ

A favorite sushi place in town with a unique blend of Japanese and French at its very best.

11211 S. Dransfeldt Rd., Parker
720-851-1005 \$\$

BAKERY/DESSERTS

LA PETITE CREPERIE

The locals favorite spot to grab made-to-order crepes. Sweet or savory, you can't go wrong. Proudly serving farm to table fresh.

19751 Mainstreet, Parker
720-638-9722 \$ (EC)

PARIS BAGUETTE

Popular Korean chain that brings expertly crafted baked goods through a warm and welcoming bakery cafe' experience that delivers joy to everyone.

18374 Cottonwood Dr., Parker
720-500-5555 \$ (N)

POULETTE BAKESHOP

New artisan bakers taking Parker by storm. Order early, they sell out every day!

19585 Hess Road, Parker
303-955-5647 \$ (N)

BARBEQUE

BIG JIMS

Don't be fooled by this being a food truck; if you like southern BBQ, this is your place.

10685 S Parker Rd, Parker \$\$\$

GQUE BBQ

Award-winning food. Try the wood-smoked ribs, brisket, pork, or garlic potatoes.

8433 Park Meadows Center Dr., Suite 143B, Lone Tree
303-729-2506 \$\$

HICKORY HOUSE

The Parker tradition. Known for their baby back ribs, but don't miss the pulled pork and barbeque chicken.

10335 S Parker Rd, Parker
303-805-9742 \$\$

OLD WEST BBQ

A hidden gem with family-friendly pricing. Don't miss out on their breakfast burritos. **107 Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock**
303-660-6340 \$

BREW PUB

20 MILE TAP HOUSE

Best known for their burgers and wings. Make sure to catch Trivia Tuesdays.

12543 N Hwy 83, Parker
303-841-6782 \$\$

GREAT DIVIDE BREWERY & ROADHOUSE

Destination locale with an informal ambiance offering hearty comfort classics

215 Wilcox St Suite G, Castle Rock
303-955-5788 \$\$ - \$\$\$ (N)

ROCKYARD BREWING CO.

Douglas County's longest running brew pub. Steaks, burgers, pizza and soup!

880 Castleton Rd, Castle Rock
303-814-9273 \$\$

TAILGATE TAVERN & GRILL

Your neighborhood tavern for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sports bar with live music not to miss on the weekends. **19552 E. Mainstreet, Parker** 303-841-7179 **\$\$**

THE LIBRARY CO. BAR & KITCHEN

Offering great food & amazing drinks in a relaxed and warm atmosphere. Clear and simple menu options. **3911 Ambrosia St., Suite 101, Castle Rock** 720-389-5986 **\$\$**

ITALIAN

CRANELLI'S

Comfort Italian food in a rustic, cozy, casual family-oriented format. **10047 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree** 303-799-3661 **\$\$**

DANIELLE'S SCRATCH KITCHEN

Stylish, energetic eatery offering elevated Italian fare with an emphasis on great customer service. **872 Happy Canyon Rd. Suite 100, Castle Rock** 303-524-9788 **\$\$\$**

PORTOFINO

Authentic Italian eatery featuring pizza, pasta, calzones and heros. The local "go-to" for fresh Italian. **10920 S Parker Rd, Parker** 303-841-9900 **\$\$**

SCILEPPI'S

A modern Italian restaurant focused on family recipes and premium ingredients. **210 Third St., Castle Rock** 303-688-9000 **\$\$**

VIA BACI

Neapolitan pizzas join modern Italian fare at this casual eatery featuring a full bar & patio. **10005 Commons St, Lone Tree** 303-790-0828 **\$\$**

MEXICAN

ADRIANNA'S

Intimate Mexican eatery for authentic cuisine in a relaxed ambiance. Great for parties. **7272 E Hwy 86, Franktown** 303-663-7800 **\$\$**

CASA MARIACHI

Unassuming local joint serving up straight-forward Mexican plates. **9771 S Parker Rd, Parker** 720-842-5105 **\$\$**

LA LOMA

Upscale-rustic atmosphere known for traditional Mexican meals. **6361 Promenade Pkw, Castle Rock** 303-632-9900 **\$\$ (N)**

LAS POTRANCES

Casual Mexican restaurant full of real Mexican culture, Mexican Food, Fresh Drinks, and Friendly Hospitality. **19600 Solar Cir, Parker** 303-840-0325 **\$\$ (N)**

LOS DOS POTRILLOS

Elegant family-owned eatery. There's a combo dish to please everyone. **6370 Promenade Pkwy., Castle Rock** 720-769-5474 **\$\$**

LOS VOLCANES

Don't miss the Carnitas! And bring your appetite for the large portions. **10471 S. Parker Rd., Parker** 303-841-0160 **\$\$**

NEW AMERICAN

CASTLE CAFE

Set in a former 1890s hotel. Plating hearty American fare like pan-fried chicken & burgers. **403 Wilcox St, Castle Rock** 303-814-2233 **\$\$**

VALERIE'S BREWHOUSE

Uniquely fun sports bar with a creative menu of brats and dogs. **971 Park St., Castle Rock** 303-660-2399 **\$**

CRAVE

A favorite gourmet burger joint. Imaginative menu with amazing handcrafted shakes. **3982 Limelight Ave, Castle Rock** 303-814-2829 **\$\$**

DOUG'S DAY DINER

American breakfast cafe where everything is made from scratch. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-476-7162 **\$\$**

MANNA

A casual sit-down destination with a menu that reflects Colorado's growing season. **2350 Meadows Blvd., Castle Rock** 720-455-3664 **\$**

PARKER GARAGE

The Parker landmark located right downtown offers a locally-sourced menu. Great service and large portions. **19420 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-389-8105 **\$\$ (EC)**

PEGASUS

A local favorite for breakfast or lunch. American, Greek or Mexican dishes. **313 Jerry St., Castle Rock** 303-688-6746 **\$\$**

RORY'S

Comfort food and baked goods at their finest. Don't see it on the menu? Ask for it! **11020 S Pikes Peak Dr., Parker** 720-708-2889 **\$\$**

SIERRA

High-end, wood-fired kitchen with a warm ambiance, preparing select American dishes. **10680 Cabela Dr., Lone Tree** 303-662-8800 **\$\$**

TRIBE AT RIVERWALK

Upscale, yet casual dining experience with a one-of-a-kind menu. Don't miss the brunch. **115 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock** 303-362-0904 **\$\$\$ (N)**

WEST MAIN TAPROOM

A modern and open venue that boasts thoughtful and honest cuisine. A haven for the gluten-free crowd. **18595 Mainstreet, Parker** 720-826-3689 **\$\$**

PIZZA

ANTONIO'S

A traditional family-style Italian pizza restaurant with a Brooklyn flair. **12947 S Parker Rd., Parker** 720-851-5300 **\$**

ARTISAN

Delicious Neapolitan-style pizza that makes each dish an individual work of art! And don't forget dessert. **12311 Pine Bluffs Way, Parker** 303-840-0518 **\$**

COLORADOUGH

A refreshing take on made-from-scratch pizza. So fresh they don't even have a freezer! **17860 Cottonwood Dr., Parker** 303-386-3333 **\$\$**

LIL' RICCI'S

New York pizzas & other red sauce staples in a low-key setting. Can't miss the garlic knots. **16526 Keystone Blvd, Parker** 303-220-7422 **\$\$**

PARRY'S

NY-style pizza, wings, & casual Italian eats, in kid-friendly quarters. **5650 Allen Way, Castle Rock** 303-814-8686 **\$\$**





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