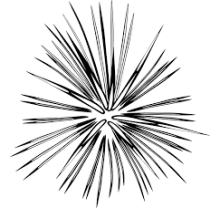




TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 400 • 294 S Worth • Center, CO 81125

719/754-3497 • 719/754-3379 (Fax)



July 1, 2018



GET READY FOR THE BIG BANG!

The celebration is on for the Fourth of July! The day will begin with a parade and color guard at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to join in. Music will start at 11:00.

We will hear throughout the day from Oro Negro, G-Stylez, Perfect StrangR, Valley Cats, and BTS Band. Come, sit and listen, or dance your heart out. We'll have a good time. We'll have 2 Jump Houses for the kids, a dunk tank, beer garden, Poker Run, a mini-car show by the Poor Boys Car Club, and lots of vendors. Best of all, lots of good people to visit with and enjoy the day.

We're sorry that there won't be fireworks this year due to the fire ban that is in force in the area.

Thank you to the committee that has worked to make this celebration possible. Volunteers are still needed throughout the day. Contact Mayor Sisneros or Town employees.

WELCOME TO NEW POLICE OFFICER

Mike Ruybal has joined the Center police force and was sworn in at the June 12 Town Board meeting. Mike comes to us with 12 years of police experience and was previously employed by the Town of Del Norte. He is eager to serve our community. Welcome to Mike, his wife, and family.

CENTER GOVERNMENT LEADERS ATTEND CML CONFERENCE

The annual Colorado Municipal League (CML) conference was held in Vail, June 19-21, and Center was well represented. Town Manager, Brian Lujan, Mayor Herman Sisneros, and Trustees Archie Gallegos and Jaime Hurtado attended. The CML conference provides training and information on many facets of municipal government and brings participants up to date on current issues facing our communities. The Center team reported that they learned a lot and were inspired by new ideas.

THANK YOU TO BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

The Boys and Girls Club has been doing great work around Town. They have been assisting our street crew, Anthony Lucero and Allen DeHerrera, with painting curbs, park maintenance, pulling weeds and picking up trash for the parks and businesses, and other useful jobs. We appreciate your service to the community and we thank Lawrence and Marisol for heading this up. Good job, kids!



What do you think?

The Town Board has been considering selling the lots at 5th and Warden Streets, formerly Meraz Park. Some think we should sell it to a local resident. Some think we should keep it for community activities such as a Farmers' Market or parking for Casa Blanca Park events. We would like to hear from the public. What do you think? Bring your ideas to the meetings, to the Town employees, or to Town Board members. Thank you.

TOWN BOARD RECEIVES NEW RATE STUDY

Andrew Ross of the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool met with Town Board members on June 24 to share information on Center's electric rates gleaned from an ongoing study by the NMPP. NMPP is a non-profit organization that serves 136 communities across the Midwest that have their own utility service like us. Andrew is a strong believer in the value of towns having their own utility system because utilities are an important asset, which brings revenue to the town and community control over these essential services. Center agrees. Electricity, water, and heat are vital to our everyday lives and a necessity that we often take for granted. The study is looking first at our electric rates, with water rates and gas rates to follow.

Our utility system is a business that must be run wisely and efficiently in order to continue serving the community for years to come. Center is looking to the future by upgrading our electric system with

new underground lines and transformers. This is costly but necessary. Our electric rates have not been increased for many years. The study shows that Center's rates are 50% lower than the average rate across the Midwest. Our rates are the third lowest in Colorado. We want to keep our rates low, but we also want to keep our system up to date. NMPP recommends an increase in our electric rates in order to keep our system viable. The Town Board will be studying rate schedules proposed by NMPP. We will keep you informed, but be prepared for an increase in electric rates.

Kudos to Center High School's Government Class!

Jan Vigil's government class deserves a big thank you for their contribution to the Town of Center. This group helped to create a survey for the Downtown Center project, and created a Facebook page and a Twitter page for the Town. Much appreciation for this effort and for your interest in and support of the Town. Citizens of Center: Do look us up and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL ETCHING WAY TO COMPLETION

The granite for the Memorial Wall is being etched with names of Center veterans and will eventually be installed in the wall. If you have already provided the name, dates of service, and branch of service of your veteran to Beatrice Gutierrez, it will be etched on the wall. If you have not yet provided the information, please do so as soon as possible. There will be no charge.

LIGHTING PROJECT COMPLETED

All 200 new LED lights have been installed around the Town of Center. This has been a 3-year project. Have you noticed how our town is well lit with the new streetlights illuminating greater areas than before? These LED bulbs last a projected 23 years and will save our town \$8,000 a year in electric bills. Thanks to Dave Mehaffie and our crew, Duane Valdez, Chris Nelson, Manuel Tafoya, and Mathew Salazar for completing this project.

A SAFER CENTER

Center's insurance company, CIRSA, audits our town annually for safety practices. This year our score went from 84 to 107. When we reach 130, we'll qualify for a drop in insurance rates. Good work, Town employees!

Consumer Confidence Report

Corrections have been made to our annual water report for 2017 (CCR) on display at Town Hall.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JULY 2018

- **July 4th Town Hall closed.** Celebration at Casa Blanca Park.
- **July 9, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm:** Saguache County Commissioner visit, Town Hall
- **July 17, 6:30 pm –** Town Board Meeting, Town Hall
- **July 14:** Poor Boys/Arregla Truckin' Car Show at Center School
- **July 21:** Music at Casa Blanca Park with UZ Band 6:00 to 8:30 pm

