



TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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August 1, 2018

Hello
¡hola
Bonjour
你好

ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!

Citizens of Center!!! We are in a serious drought! We have received only 2 inches of rain in all of 2018!

We MUST conserve water. Yet Center is using 1.3 million gallons of water per DAY. One overnight check found that twenty-six residents were watering ALL NIGHT LONG!



The abuse of our community water restrictions MUST stop. Therefore, no more warnings will be given. Tickets will be issued for all watering violations.

Please, citizens, abide by the rules: Even numbered houses may water from 6 am to 10 am and from 6 pm to 9 pm on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Odd numbered houses may water from 6 am to 10 am and from 6 pm to 9 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. No watering on Mondays and no open hoses.

NEW ELECTRIC CONTRACT WILL SAVE MONEY

The Town has signed a contract for the purchase of electric power with Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (M.E.A.N.), a branch of Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, of which we have been a member for many years. M.E.A.N. is a wholesale provider of power to 67 communities throughout the Midwest. This contract will provide many benefits such as energy audits, rate studies, and training opportunities. The best part is a lower rate for electricity, saving us approximately \$135,000 annually.



This contract will replace the contract with Excel for electricity, though transmission of power will continue with Excel.

CENTER HIRES NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

The Town Board voted unanimously to hire Tristan Van Zalinge to serve as our new Police Chief. He will begin work on August 6.

Officer Van Zalinge worked in Center several years ago, before moving on to other law enforcement positions in the Valley. He has lived in the Valley for 22 years and has a wife and three sons. We welcome Officer Van Zalinge to Center and look forward to working with him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROSE AND BEATRICE!

Rose De Herrera and Beatrice Gutierrez recently graduated from Colorado Municipal Clerks Association training program. They have attended an intensive week-long training in Denver each year for the past three years to earn the Association's Certificates of Completion.



Congratulations, Rose and Beatrice for your hard work and dedication to improving your job skills.

TOWN WORKING TO IMPROVE FISCAL SYSTEM

Town administration is working with DOLA – the Department of Local Affairs – to address some long-standing fiscal issues identified in our audits. Center is the first community in our region to participate in DOLA's Fiscal Stability Initiative. This program will help us to develop a capital improvement policy, a reserve policy, a budget policy, and an asset inventory.

These are big words but the bottom line is that this work will make our fiscal system more stable, with direction for future financial planning. We are proud to be involved in this initiative, and DOLA commends Center for the progress we are making.

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPROVED

Remember the talk about improving our main street? Here's the latest news on that:

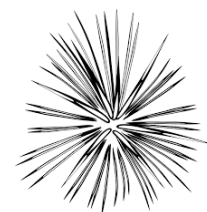


Downtown Colorado, Inc. received a grant from USDA, which will benefit the Town of Center as well as other rural communities. The program will help us to identify needs and priorities and then develop an action plan to address our downtown area.

Stakeholders, including local businesses, will be included in the planning. We hope that this will give us some direction for improving Center's downtown. We're looking forward to getting started.

JULY 4TH EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

The July 4th event was a great success with lots of good music, food, fun, and an impressive turnout of Center residents and out-of-towners as well. The Town would like to send a big THANK YOU to the following for their support of the celebration. We could not have done it without you.



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| *Adrian Duran | *Poor Boy Car Club |
| *Peggy Martinez | *Marie Gonzales |
| *Natalia Gonzales | *Richie Barela |
| *Brandon Cordova | *Abbey Heredia |
| *Olga Lujan | *Amy Duran |
| *Greg Castro | *Georgianna Moran |
| *Jim Whitney | *Arreglados Truck Club |
| *Center Fire and EMT | *M&M Liquor |
| *Maverick Potato | *Dollar General |
| *First Southwest Bank-Center | *DJ Café |
| *Valley Wide | *All Town Employees |
| *All participating Center citizens!! | |

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUGUST 2018

- **August 13, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm:** Saguache County Commissioner visit, Town Hall
- **August 14 and 28, 6:30 pm:** Town Board Meeting, Town Hall
- **August 17, 6:00 pm:** Music at Casa Blanca Park with Sangre Joven
- **August 31, 6:00 to 8:30 pm:** Music at Casa Blanca Park with Indian Nickel

