

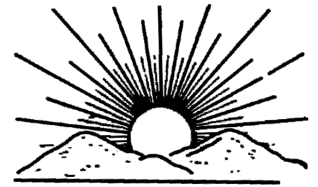


TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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September 1, 2019



DOWNTOWN COLORADO, INC HELPING US TO THINK BIG

The team from Downtown Colorado, Inc. sees lots of potential for the Town of Center. They see space on our main street to house businesses; improved infrastructure; a large tract of land just north of town waiting to be developed; new economic activity starting up, including the hemp industry; and potential drone training operation.

And best of all, they see the energy in Center for making improvements. The Downtown Colorado team includes professionals from around the state who have expertise in finances, housing, small business development, and brownfield cleanup. This group of dedicated individuals can help us develop our downtown, and they all agree: It's up to us to participate, share our ideas, and work together to make it happen. Also, we need to stick with it because it won't happen overnight.

One of the first things that will happen is a simple survey of the community to gather our ideas. Be sure to complete this survey. You all have ideas and imagination, and we need you to put them out there.

Next is a competition for anyone ages 14 to 35 to create a business plan idea for Center. Training on how to create a business plan will be offered to all participants. Center students especially will be invited to participate, but anyone ages 14 to 35 may join the competition. Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

A special Downtown Center event will be held on the evening of October 15. Our downtown will be blocked off, lit up, brought to life. We'll have activities, food, and exchange of ideas. The community will decide who wins the business plan prizes. Mark October 15 on your calendar and, by all means, BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW POLICE CHIEF

Hello, my name is Dale Eugene Meek, and I have the privilege of being chosen as the new Chief of Police in Center. I have a long and extensive law enforcement career in which I worked on inner city projects, fought street gangs and domestic terrorists, and even worked against organized crime overseas. My career has taken me from Kentucky, to Florida, far from home to Afghanistan and to New Mexico.

I have earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, a Master's Degree in Homeland Security and I am currently a PhD Candidate at Walden University, working on a Doctorate in Public Policy and Administration. The lovely Mrs. Meek (Mechel) has been with me for 25 years and I have a 22-year-old son in his senior year of college for video production. If you see me walking or jogging in town, I will have one of my three dogs with me. Thor is an Anatolian Shepard and my jogging buddy. Shelby is an 11-year-old mini Pitty. Mechel has a Bernese Mountain Dog who is her balance assist service animal.

I look forward to sharing my passion for community safety with Center, and I am excited to be a part of this community, which reminds me of where I come from in Kentucky.

Take Care and Stay Safe.

Dale E. Meek "Gene"
Center Chief of Police

YOU'RE INVITED

Come out Saturday at 10 am and meet Center's new Chief of Police. Chief Dale Eugene Meek "Gene" will be hosting coffee with power-rings (aka Donuts) at Center Town Hall. Chief Meek would love to talk about Center's public safety and how we can all join together to be the best small town in Colorado.

GET READY, GET SET . . . NEW WATER METERS COMING

Mid-September is the tentative starting point for the installation of our new water meters. Gardner Excavating from Alamosa has been awarded the contract. The meters will be installed between your property line and the street right of way. Water will be shut off during the installation. You will be notified of the day and time, sometime between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm. We hope to have all meters installed by Thanksgiving. Thanks in advance for your patience and cooperation.



VETERANS' WALL COMPLETED, DEDICATION COMING UP

The Veterans' Wall in Casa Blanca Park has been completed. Our thanks go to **John Glass** of Valley

Monuments Company from Monte Vista who did all the engraving on the granite free of charge. The wall will be formally dedicated on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2019. Please remember to respect the wall and the veterans who are named there. The wall should not be used for sitting or climbing on.

PREVIEW OF BALLOT QUESTIONS IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

Heads up to all Center voters. In the November election, Center voters will be asked to vote on two ballot questions for Center voters. The questions are:

1. Should Center authorize a 1% sales tax increase inside the Town limits?
2. Should Center allow medical and retail marijuana sales within the Town limits?

Take your time, think about these questions, and study the issues.

The November election will be a mail-in election.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER (and the last hurrah of August)

August 31, Saturday, 10 am: Come have a donut with Center's new Police Chief, "Gene" Meek, Town Hall

September 2, Monday, Labor Day: Town Hall closed all day.

September 9, Monday, 10:00 am-1:00 pm: Saguache County Commissioner visit, Town Hall.

September 10, Tuesday, 6:30 pm: Town Board Meeting, Town Hall.

September 24, Tuesday, 6:30 pm: Town Board Meeting, Town Hall.



More Thanks!

Volunteers who helped with the 4th of July celebration but didn't get mentioned in last month's newsletter are Chris Martinez, Renee Olmos, and Adam Valdez.

We appreciate your help. Thank you so much!