

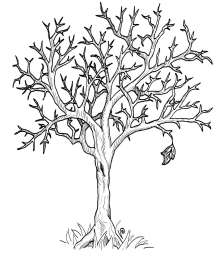


# TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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November 1, 2019



## **THANKS FOR ATTENDING "LIGHTS ON CENTER" AND YOUR FEEDBACK**



The October 15 Lights on Center event was both fun and productive with interesting meetings with students, community, and Downtown Colorado partners. All were engaged in how we can support business development and create a more dynamic and colorful downtown.

The evening event included a lighting display, a fancy meal in the middle of the street, information sharing and input gathering, and fun for kids as well as adults with a video game projected on the north wall of Big R.

Some areas from your input that we will be working on:

1. Continue to work on attracting business and support local business initiatives
2. Beautification of our downtown
3. Blight removal initiatives
4. Vision for developing the Consaul property north of town
5. Consider a VISTA volunteer to help secure funding and organize activities.



We are waiting for a report and action plan from the Downtown Colorado people, so watch for more news to come.

Thanks go to Brian Lujan and Town employees who worked hard to set up the evening event; Azteca de Oro for delicious food and access to their building; Center school, especially Katrina Ruggles; Center Viking Youth Club, especially Lawrence Trujillo; Dollar General for donated drinks; Rick Ellithorpe for donating 100 pounds of potatoes and the school cafeteria staff, especially Diane Valenzuela, for baking them; Jeff Owsley of the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority; Tom Monaco of the SLV Small Business Development Center; and everyone who contributed to the potluck, especially Lucy Trujillo, Sobeida Moreno, and Leslie Rodriguez.

## **COMMUNITY—ESPECIALLY VETS—INVITED TO DEDICATION OF WALL**

Center's veterans will be honored on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month (that is, November 11 at 11:00 am) at the dedication of the Veterans' Wall in Casa Blanca Park. The wall commemorates veterans from Center, past and present, who have served our country in the military. We invite all Center vets to come to the dedication, and all other Center residents to come honor our debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

All veterans have a story, and we encourage everyone to talk to the vets you know and listen to their stories and the stories passed down through families.

Special recognition will be presented to John Glass of Valley Monument Company who has done all of the engraving on the granite at no charge to the Town. As more veterans' names are brought forward, John has agreed to add these names at no charge.

We remind Center citizens to respect the wall and to refrain from sitting or climbing on it.



## **WATER SHUT-OFFS FRUSTRATING FOR EVERYONE**



Good news! We're making progress on the water meter installation. The bad news? Unfortunately, water shut-offs have been a problem because the system is old and our guys have been having trouble shutting off selected areas. Sometimes they have to shut off larger areas than they would like.

Please be patient and keep a supply of water on hand. **DON'T RELY ON BEING NOTIFIED.** It is frustrating both for residents and for our guys working on the system.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Usually, water will be turned back on between 2:30 and 3:00. Thank you.

## **BUDGET PREPARATION NOW IN PROGRESS—YOU'RE INVITED**

Town Board members and employees are busy with the development of the 2020 budget, which is due to the State in December. The annual budget outlines the financial obligations and plans for all the Town's business for the coming year.

Budget workshops will be held at the Town Hall during the second and third weeks of November. Because of the additional time required for budget preparation, only one Town Board meeting will be held in November on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The public is invited to attend budget workshops and a public hearing on the final budget, which will be held at the December 10 Town Board meeting.



## **SHOW AND TELL PRESENTATION ON TOWN ASSETS**

An inventory of all Town assets is currently in progress. This means that all Center's roads, sidewalks, parks, town lots, buildings, natural gas, water and electrical systems are being identified and mapped. Next steps are to evaluate the condition of these assets, determine their age, useful life, and needed improvements. From that, we will schedule improvements needed in the future so we can plan ahead and budget to pay for them.

At the October 22 Town Board meeting, Rick Goncalves of RG& Associates presented the first phase of the mapping. This includes two large color-coded maps of streets, curbs and gutters, and sidewalks, and their current condition. He also presented block-by-block maps of the entire town with all items such as manholes, power lines, water lines, wells, and buildings. This was done using satellite photographs and actual field inspections. The maps are very interesting and are displayed at Town Hall. Come in and check them out.



## **COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF**

Police Chief, Gene Dale Meek has been hosting open house coffee and donuts for the community to share their concerns and ideas. The next coffee with the chief will be at DJ Café on Saturday, November 16 at 10:00 a.m. All are invited.

Chief Meek encourages citizens to follow the Center Police Facebook page for information on the Neighborhood Watch Program and upcoming training on the Program.

## **REMEMBER TO VOTE! ELECTION NOVEMBER 5**

Two questions on the ballot that voters recently received in the mail are related to the Town of Center:

**Ballot issue 3A** asks voters if Center should raise the city sales tax by one percent to provide an increase to the general fund. The general fund pays for administration, streets and parks, public safety, municipal court, building/planning, and sanitation. The Town urges citizens to vote yes on this measure because a) general fund budgets for the past several years have been insufficient; b) Center's sales tax rate is lower than that of neighboring communities; c) a sales tax increase brings in revenue from everyone who shops in Center, not just the residents.

**Ballot issue 3B** asks voters if retail and medical marijuana businesses should be allowed to operate in Center in compliance with all regulations.

Vote your ballot, sign and date it, and deposit it in the ballot box at Town Hall or deliver it to the County Clerk.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NOVEMBER**

**November 11, Monday:** Veterans' Day, Town Hall closed all day.

**November 19, Tuesday, 6:30 pm:** Town Board Meeting, Town Hall.

**November 16, Saturday, 10:00:** Coffee with the Chief, DJ Café.

**November 27 beginning at noon, and November 28-29, all day:** Thanksgiving, Town Hall closed.

