

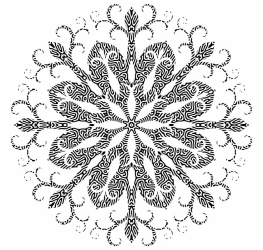


TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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December 1, 2018



DOWNTOWN PLANNING SET FOR DECEMBER 3

The workshop for downtown development is right around the corner on December 3 from 9:00 am to 11:00. This will be held at the Community Room of the School Library. Refreshments will be served. Downtown Colorado, Inc. will present ideas and assist us with creating a plan for enhancing our main street.

Tom Monaco from the SLV Small Business Development Center will also be there to lend a hand. We hope to see local business people and all other interested citizens there and ready for new ideas for community action.



Important! Be part of our decision-making

PLEASE COME TO 2019 BUDGET HEARING, DECEMBER 4

December is the month when we, as a community—Town Board and Center residents—make key decisions on the Town budget for the next year. The budget is everyone's business, and we urge you all to attend the preliminary budget hearing to ask questions and to provide input. The meeting will be December 4 at 6:00 pm, before the regular Town Board meeting at the Town Hall meeting room.

The Town Board and employees have been working on the 2019 budget and will have it ready to present to the public for input and for general discussion.

FISCAL STABILITY INITIATIVE PLANNING UNDERWAY

The Fiscal Stability Initiative? You may ask, "What's that?" Answer: It's a program to make sure Center has the equipment, programs, facilities, systems, and plans needed to operate effectively for years into the future.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has awarded Center \$90,000 to implement this Fiscal Stability Initiative. DOLA will assist us in strengthening our fiscal management and budget process to make sure our Town's services, operations, and infrastructure (streets; parks; and water, gas, and electrical lines) can be maintained into the future.

This grant requires no match from the Town.

Good News!

A NEW DENTAL CLINIC FOR CENTER?

The Town Board voted on November 27 to sponsor the Valley Wide effort to apply for renovation money to create a new dental clinic. Valley Wide has purchased the Kingdom Hall building and has plans to renovate it for a new location for the dental clinic. They asked that Center be the funding body for a \$600,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs for renovation of the former Kingdom Hall.

The new clinic would house two dentists and a full-time dental hygienist. Valley Wide sees the need for expanded dental services. The current clinic offers the only dental services in Saguache County and the need has outgrown the size and capacity of the thirty-year-old clinic. If the grant application is funded, renovation of the facility would begin in 2020.



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES COMING SOON

Have you noticed the new garland adorning the intersection on Worth Street? Yep, we're gearing up for Christmas.

The Center Town Board is teaming up with the Center Kiwanis Club again this year to plan the annual Christmas parade. The parade will begin at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 15, starting at the north end of Worth Street.

We are inviting all citizens and organizations to participate in the parade. We will award prizes for the top three entries. Santa will be waiting at Casa Blanca Park with treats for all children. Turkeys, hams, and other prizes will be raffled to participants who make purchases at our local businesses.



Children and youth are invited to decorate the Christmas tree. Residents are encouraged to participate in the home lighting contest, for which prizes will be awarded. If you are interested in entering the contest or being a judge for it, come in or call Town Hall, 754-3497, to sign up.

We look forward to sharing the Christmas spirit and a good time with all residents of Center.

Did you know?

HIGH-SPEED COMMUNICATIONS COMING TO CENTER

Does your cell phone or computer sometimes make you tear your hair out because it is so slow, or subject to interference, or just doesn't work right?

Good news, Neighbors! Fiber Optics cable is being laid along with the new (copper) electric lines that are in progress. What does that mean? It means that Center will have access to technology that can carry calls and emails right around the world in one-seventh of a second! Really!

Fiber Optics cable offers significant advantages over copper wire, which works fine for normal electrical needs. But for communications and data transfer, Fiber Optics is much faster and stronger than copper, more reliable, and not susceptible to bad weather. In addition, it is both immune to electromagnetic interference and produces no interference when operating.

Though digging for this project will stop for the winter, it will continue when the weather warms up.

POLICE CHIEF SEEKS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chief Van Zalinge invites citizens to serve on the Chief's Advisory Board to meet periodically to discuss problem areas and ways the police department can be of help. This would be an informal, standing body without decision-making responsibility, but with knowledge of the community that can be helpful to the police department.

He also requests that citizens serve as informal Crimestoppers by reporting suspected crimes. Reporting would be anonymous for the protection of all citizens.

"A Police Department is stronger with the involvement and support of the community," he notes. If you are interested in serving the community and the police department in helping to make Center a safer town, contact Chief Van Zalinge at 754-2442 or meet with him at Town Hall to discuss your ideas.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER 2018

- **December 3, Monday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm:** Downtown Planning Workshop, Town Hall.
- **December 4, Tuesday, 6:00 pm:** Budget hearing, followed by Town Board meeting at **6:30 pm;** both meetings are at Town Hall.
- **December 12, Monday, 8:00 am-1:00 pm:** Saguache County Commissioner visit, Town Hall.
- **December 15, Saturday, 1:00 pm:** Christmas Parade, starting at the north end of Worth Street.
- **December 24-25, Monday-Tuesday:** Christmas holiday. Town Hall closed both days.

