

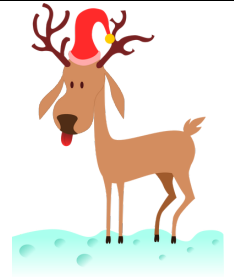


# TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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December 1, 2019



## RESIDENTS INVITED TO JOIN CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 14



Once again the Town of Center is partnering with the Center Kiwanis to sponsor the annual Christmas parade on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 1:00 pm. The parade will begin at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Worth and proceed down Worth Street to the Casa Blanca Park. There, special

guest Santa Claus will be present to meet the children of Center to hear their Christmas wishes and offer a treat to each one.

All Center residents are invited to enter the parade. As usual, prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 will be given to the top three entries. If you want to enter, sign up at the Town Hall, and line up at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Worth at 12:30 Saturday. We hope to see the Center Christmas spirit alive and well for a fun day of seasonal cheer.

The Town will also offer prizes for the top three entries in the contest for best decorated home. Don't forget to contact Town Hall to put your name down if you want to enter the contest.

## A TIP OF THE HAT: RECAP OF CENTER'S 2019 GOALS

The Town Board and administration set goals to be accomplished in 2019. Here is a brief report on the progress made on these goals:



### 1. *Annexation of Consaul Property*

**Progress:** Comprehensive Plan and surveys are complete as required.

### 2. *Continue work on Infrastructure*

**Progress:** Electrical upgrade is complete south of Hwy 112, and from the highway north to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and partially from Torrez to Broadway.

In addition, 330 water meters are installed, and work will stop soon for the winter.

### 3. *Park Improvements*

**Progress:** North and South baseball fields in Community Park have been renovated. Two grants have been submitted for playground upgrades in Community and Central Parks.

### 4. *Downtown Revitalization*

**Progress:** Community engagement with Downtown Colorado to recruit resources and envision future initiatives. Investors have bought four vacant downtown buildings. Stay tuned!

### 5. *Eliminate Blight*

**Progress:** Enforcement of nuisance ordinance has resulted in the cleanup of many properties. Center looks better!

### 7. *Promote responsible dog ownership*

**Progress:** Increased enforcement of animal ordinance. Dog licensing has increased to about 40 from only 12 last year.

## GET ON BOARD THE SUCCESS TRAIN!

Center Citizens! Look around. Have you noticed? Center is a unique, interesting, diverse community with plenty of talented, good, hard-working people. We have a beautiful school, beautiful parks, a new water tower, developing infrastructure, paved streets, our own utility system, and the 90-acre Consaul property waiting to be developed.

And more: We have people with ideas, a young population, our own story of growth and struggle, a work ethic, and a vision for the future. Yes, we have some problems and challenges, but we have the strength and ability to address them and find creative solutions.

Let's all strive for a new, positive, upbeat attitude toward our Town. We have a lot to be proud of here. Things are happening. New projects are in the works. Center is a great place to live and can be better if we all work together and give of our time and energy.

Let's get over the tired old songs: "There is nothing to do in Center." "We can't do it because we're low income." "All they do is ride around all day." "We should be like Alamosa (or Monte Vista or someplace else)."

As we move into a new year, let's commit to working together, giving of ourselves for our community, thinking of the long term good of all Center citizens, and having fun being a caring and sharing Town with the courage to try new things and to work on our issues together. GO CENTER!



## **VOTERS TURNED DOWN BALLOT MEASURES**

Center voters turned down the two measures on the November 5 ballot. Neither the 1% sales tax increase nor the proposed authorization for marijuana retail sales received approval from the community. The Town Board is seeking a means to increase revenue to keep utility rates lower. Their efforts will continue.

## **CHIEF MEEK SEEKS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Chief Meek has been hosting "Coffee with the Chief" meetings each month to foster communication with Center citizens. These meetings have been a productive way to learn what's going on in Center and to let the Chief know our concerns.

The next "Coffee with the Chief" meeting will be held at the United Methodist Church at 8:00 am on Saturday, December 7. Everyone is invited!

Break-ins and burglaries have been a great concern for many of us. The Chief would like everyone to know that multiple arrests have already been made as the police department is addressing the problem.



Chief is also calling for volunteers to participate in Neighborhood Watch to involve the community in decreasing the amount of crime in Center. All citizens can help by keeping watch and reporting suspicious activity. The first Neighborhood Watch meeting is coming up soon. Check the Center Police Facebook page for the date and time, expected to be the first week in December. Or call Town Hall for more information.

## **2020 BUDGET HEARING SET**

The Town Board and administration have been working hard to create a 2020 budget that will continue to provide services to Center residents while maintaining a sound financial plan. A public hearing on the completed budget will be held on December 12, 2019 at 5:30 before the Town Board meeting. All citizens are encouraged to attend.

## **DEDICATION OF VETERANS' WALL**

Many Center veterans, as well as family members and others, attended the dedication of the Veterans' Wall on November 11, 2019. The ceremony included raising of the flag, welcome by Mayor Sisneros; address by State Senator, Larry Crowder; reading of all names engraved on the Wall; recognition of Eddie Tafoya, John Glass, and Steve Velasquez for their contribution to the completion of the Wall; breakfast served by Town employees; and time for visiting, stories, and photographs.

Thanks to all who attended and especially to all veterans for your service to our country.



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER**

**December 7, Saturday, 8:00 am:** Coffee with the Chief, United Methodist Church

**December 9, Monday, 9:00 am- 12:00 noon:** Saguache County Commissioner Visit.

**December 12, Thursday:** 5:30 pm, Budget hearing; 6:30 pm, Town Board Meeting, Town Hall.

**December 14, Saturday, 1:00 pm:** Christmas Parade and visit from Santa.

**December 24-25, Christmas holiday:** Town Hall closed beginning at noon the 24<sup>th</sup> all day the 25<sup>th</sup>.

