



TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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Enter the contests, win a prize?

CENTER MOVES AHEAD IN 2021

The past year has brought new developments to Center, which we hope to continue into the coming year and beyond. Following is a brief reminder of some of our town's accomplishments.

1. Downtown Revitalization

- Grants received by the Town of Center
 - ◆ **DOLA Planning Grant of \$20,000** for the development of the North 90 Addition;
 - ◆ "Open For Business" grant which awarded \$114,000 for the renovation of some of the main street businesses;
 - ◆ **Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI Grant) of \$120,000** was received in cooperation with the school to foster youth entrepreneurship
 - ◆ **A "pass through" REDI grant of \$144,000** to assist the developer at Frontier Drive-in to assess the feasibility of connecting to Center's water system.
 - ◆ **CDOT Safe Routes to School** grant for \$750,000 for new sidewalks on 5th and 6th Streets and for a crossing light on Hwy 112 and Broadway.
 - ◆ **Coordination with Downtown Colorado, Inc.** has provided the benefits of training, networking, and funding for our revitalization efforts.



2. Community Events

- **Summer Solstice Happening** on June 19 featured music, food, Taiko Drummers, Salida Circus, tours of the Frontier Drive-In, vendors, dancing.
- **End of Summer Bash** held on August 28 included a tie-dye parade, music, food, Salida Circus, Poker Run, Bounce House, vendors, fun.
- **Christmas parade and Santa Claus visit** on December 18 in cooperation with the Kiwanis.

3. Americorps VISTA Volunteer

Keith Brockhurst has been a part of the Center team since July, 2021, focusing on economic development and community participation among a myriad of other tasks.

4. Utility Upgrade Continuation

- **Electrical upgrade has been completed** for all of Center from Torres St. to Broadway and extending to the North 90 Addition
- **Water meters have been installed throughout town**, though delays remain regarding billing system.
- **Maintenance of gas system.** Unfortunate billing of \$380,000 due to gas shortage and damages caused by freezing temperatures in the South, resulting in rising gas prices.

5. Police Department Reorganization

- Under the leadership of Chief Dale Meek, we have seen an increase in community participation, crime control, K9 use, and a new and effective philosophy of law enforcement.

6. Water conservation

- Center has improved our water conservation and saved millions of gallons of water—**Hurrah for us!**

RUNNING FOR ELECTION? PETITIONS DUE IN JANUARY

The election for the Center Town Board is scheduled for April 5, 2022. Three trustee seats will be open. All Center citizens who are registered to vote are eligible to run for a position. Those interested must pick up a petition at the Town Hall starting **January 4, 2022**. The petition must be signed by at least 10 Center citizens who are registered to vote. Signatures must match those on the registration list at the county courthouse.

It is recommended to collect a few more than 10 signatures in case any are not accurate. Completed petitions are due at Town Hall by **January 24, 2022**.

**RUN FOR
TOWN BOARD!**

Serving on the Town Board is a rewarding experience. It requires some time and effort to keep informed and to attend meetings (at least 2 per month). Board members are expected to make decisions based on what is best for Town interest and the community as a whole—not for personal gain or for the advantage of friends or family. Dedication and concern for the Town of Center are needed.

Center is approaching some exciting and interesting opportunities. Town Board decisions will be important. Please consider stepping up to serve your community and being an active part of Center life.

CHRISTMAS IN CENTER RECAP



Christmas in Center was certainly colorful with many homes decked out for the holidays. A big THANK YOU to all those who decorated their homes and yards, giving us all the pleasure of Christmas beauty. The winners of the decorating contest are Teddy Garcia Family, 1st Prize; Henrietta Garcia and Chuck Dominguez, 2nd Prize; Mike and Geraldine Martinez, 3rd Prize.

The parade on December 18 was also a colorful affair with many spectators and participants. Thanks to all those who took part and generously tossed candy to waiting children. The winners of the float contest are High Velocity Graphics, 1st Prize; Herman Sisneros, 2nd Prize; Robin James, 3rd Prize. Congratulations to all winners, and remember, all residents of Center are welcome to participate in parades and other events.

RUN FOR MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY 2022!



- January 4, Tuesday:** Petitions available at Town Hall for anyone planning to run for Town Board Trustee.
- January 11, Tuesday, 6:00 pm*:** Town Board meeting, Town Hall.
- January 17, Monday:** Town Hall closed for Martin Luther King's Birthday.
- January 24, Monday:** Completed petitions for those wanting to run for Town Board due at the Town Hall by close of business.
- January 25, Tuesday, 6:00 pm*:** Town Board meeting, Town Hall.

*Please check Nixel or the Post Office bulletin board for any late-breaking decisions on meeting times.

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