



TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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September 1, 2020



US SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET VISITS CENTER

Center's corona virus outbreak of more than 100 cases early this summer brought US Senator Michael Bennet to town to learn how the outbreak was handled here. He met with about 20 people, all wearing masks, at Casa Blanca Park on August 18, 2020 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

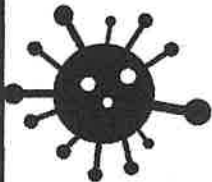
City manager Brian Lujan chaired the meeting. After introducing Senator Bennet, Brian called on several agency representatives to summarize how their organization collaborated to address the corona virus outbreak.

Valley-Wide Health Services provided testing and follow-up, personal protective equipment (PPE), and educational services. Center Middle School Principal Luis Murillo enlisted several volunteers and the Promotora parent organization to visit residents' homes to explain the virus and recommend procedures to fight it. Skyview Cooling explained how they acted to protect workers and create a safe environment.

Speakers from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Lt. Governor's Office, and SLV Area Health Education Center reported on their roles and continuing offers of resources and support. Community health workers shared information about their efforts to assist families with needs such as masks, hand sanitizer, food, rental assistance, referrals and moral support.



US Senator Michael Bennet



The overall themes of the discussion were the teamwork, communication, selflessness, and love of the Center community that helped to bring the corona virus outbreak of over 100 cases to a single case at this time. All agencies expressed gratitude to those who gave of their time and efforts.

Senator Bennet listened attentively and commended the Valley community for excellent teamwork that will serve as a model for other communities. He cautioned that the flu season and another wave of corona virus may be coming, and advised us to continue using all precautions.



Senator Bennet's office reported that he was moved by what he heard and tasked his team to support any further Promotora strategies in the San Luis Valley and across the state.

TOWN HALL TO REOPEN SEPTEMBER 14

The Town is working on reopening to the public after being closed for corona virus protections.



Recommended barriers will be installed at the front counters and as needed for all

our safety. Following that addition, the Town Hall will reopen September 14. Thank you for your cooperation in using the side window for your business.

Notice

On Friday, September 4, there will be a power outage for the Town of Center for four to five hours, starting at 9:00 am.

TOWN SEEKING WATER/WASTEWATER EMPLOYEE



Applications are being taken for the position of Water/Wastewater Operator or Trainee for the Town of Center. The job involves managing day-to-day operations, such as pump maintenance, water shutoff and turn-on, jetting water lines, water and sanitation sampling, and managing chlorination.

The candidate to be hired must be able to pass the test for water and wastewater certification. Application forms are available at the Town Hall.

Domonick Arellano, who filled the position, recently resigned to accept a job with the Alamosa Hospital. We wish Domonick the best and thank him for his service to Center.

WATER RATES STUDIED AS METER PROJECT WINDS DOWN



The water meter project is nearly finished. Town employees are reading the meters and seeing that usage is high for many residents. The Town Board is working at setting new rates based on usage.

To keep you informed, "sample" water bills printed on yellow paper will soon be coming out **with** your regular utility bill. This "sample" bill will show you what your cost might be, based on your current usage, and calculated with the new trial rates. It is for your information only. **YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO PAY THE "SAMPLE" BILLS!** Of course, please **DO** pay your regular utility bill.

Sample bills will be sent for a few months. This information will give you a chance to check for leaks and to see how you can cut down your water use. The new rates are tentatively planned to take effect at the beginning of the new year. We'll keep you informed.

A public hearing on the new water rates will be held in the fall. The purpose of the water meters is to help us learn to conserve water and to keep our water system financially solvent, so that we will be prepared for future water system needs. While water bills will likely rise for many residents and businesses, please try to remember that we have been extremely lucky to have had flat water rates for many years.

STREET PAVING PROJECT COMPLETED

Center is looking sharp with newly paved streets from Broadway to Sisneros and from Second Street to Highway 112. Thanks to the Saguache County Road and Bridge crew for their work!

Funding for the paving is available from Center citizens who have been paying a 1% sales tax since 1983 when a sales tax issue was passed by Center voters to raise money for street improvements. The paving will cost about \$550,000 and will be fully paid for with this sales tax money.



Congratulations, Center citizens!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 7, Monday, all day: Labor Day, Town Hall closed all day.

September 8, Tuesday, 6:30 pm: Workshop and Town Board Meeting, via phone conference call.

September 22, Tuesday, 6:30 pm: Town Board Meeting.



Please check meeting times on the Post Office bulletin board to verify meeting start times.