



TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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April 1, 2022



TOWN ELECTION—THE TIME HAS COME!

The election is now! You should have already received your ballot in the mail. If you haven't already voted, you must turn your ballot in by Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm. Vote for no more than 3 people, sign and date your ballot envelope, and deposit it in the ballot box outside the Town Hall entrance.



The candidates are . . . Richard Barela, Bernadette Duran, Miriam Gonzales, Bill McClure, James Sanchez, and Herman Sisneros are running for 3 seats on the Center Town Board. Vote and make your voice be heard.

We citizens will select three of these persons to oversee Town business, make the policy decisions that affect all our lives, and plan for the growth and development of our community.

WATER BILLS TO SHOW INCREASE IN RATES



We knew it was coming. Public notice has been given. The increase has been delayed for several months while computer and meter issues have been resolved. But the time has finally come.

Water rate increases will now appear on our utility bills. It is necessary for the Town to raise our water rates to keep our water system financially sound and to conserve our water.

The basic rate was lowered from \$39 to \$30 for the first 7500 gallons of water used. After that amount of usage, our water meters will record how much additional water we use and we will be charged accordingly. This is a wake-up call to use our water carefully and to foster conscious, active habits to conserve water—for all of us. We can do it!

READY FOR ON-LINE BILL PAY? PAPERLESS BILLING?

Are you tired of the paperwork of paying your Center utility and other bills? Our new online bill pay and paperless billing options save you time and give you more flexibility in how you pay your bills.

To sign up, go to the Town website, townofcenter.colorado.gov. Click on "Pay your utility bills on-line" to log in or create an account for on-line payments or paperless billing to get your bill by email instead of by mail. You can also click on "Pay for non-utility fees" to pay for permits, licenses, permits, inspections, and, yep, tickets.

WATERING TO BEGIN APRIL 1

Due to the dry conditions, the Town Board has moved the date for watering to April 1. The same restrictions will remain in place as in the past. Houses with odd numbers will water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Houses with even numbers will water on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Times for watering are 6:00 am to 10:00 am and from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. No watering is allowed on Mondays. Watering with open hoses is prohibited. These restrictions will be enforced.



POLICE RECEIVE GRANT FOR EQUIPMENT UPGRADE

The Center Police Department has received a grant of \$25,316 for mobile report and ticket writing equipment for each police vehicle. The grant was made by the Saguache County Commissioners from Sheriff Warwick's public safety fund. This equipment makes it possible for all reports, accidents, criminal activity, and citations to be written digitally in the police vehicle without going to the office. Smart devices have cameras so photos can be taken and instantaneously uploaded into reports. Supervisors can review and approve reports anywhere.

This addition is another step toward making our Police Department more efficient and up-to-date. It also makes us compliant with the new Colorado law, SB 217. A point of pride for all of us.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG! LET'S CLEAN UP!

**Spring
Cleaning**

It's time to get out the rakes and trash bags. Let's enjoy the warmer weather by getting out and cleaning up our yards and disposing of junk and trash that accumulates over winter. Center is looking better overall, but we need to keep up our properties and take pride in our community.

REMINDER: Trash services are required by ordinance. Residents may be cited for allowing their property to become an unsightly . . . well, an unsightly mess!

RESPONSE TO TOWN SURVEY SMALL BUT IMPORTANT

Last month's Town newsletter asked citizens to complete a checklist showing your preferences for 2022 goals. Only 8 interested persons responded, but we consider those opinions to be important and we thank those who did respond. The goal that received the most votes was to Hold a Fourth of July festival, followed by Sponsor Summer Concerts, Create more Summer Events, and Add an Amphitheatre to Casa Blanca Park. Written suggestions were (1) to put in sidewalks and (2) weed control in yards and alleys.

Your input is very important for a vital and active community. We thank those who took the time to answer our questionnaire.

CAR SHOW IN CENTER APRIL 9



Capstone students from the Center High School are hosting a car show at Community Park on April 9, 2022 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The fee to enter a car in the show is \$20. Proceeds will go to the Downtown Entrepreneur Project. For questions, call Cael Ruggles, 719-588-5841 or Cruz Reyes, 719-496-6427.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 2022



- April 12, Tuesday, 6:00 pm*:** Town Board meeting, Town Hall.
- April 15, Friday, all day:** Good Friday. Town Hall will be closed all day.
- April 26, Tuesday, 6:00 pm*:** Town Board meeting, Town Hall.
- April 30, Saturday, 9:00 am:** Coffee with the Chief, Methodist Church.

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

April 22: Earth Day—Be kind to our planet, everyone:

Plant a tree—or more than one . . .

Conserve our limited water . . .

Walk to the post office instead of drive . . .

Help prevent forest fires . . .

*Foster community wherever you are!****

