



# TOWN OF CENTER NEWSLETTER

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November 1, 2021

## Local Fires Sound the Alarm!

### **SMOKE AND CO2 DETECTORS AVAILABLE FOR CENTER CITIZENS**

Center has had three serious home fires in the recent past and the Town is concerned! With the safety of our citizens foremost in mind, the Town Board has purchased smoke and CO2 detectors to be available for Center residents.



When placed in the proper locations (upstairs and downstairs, in the bedroom, and close to or on the ceiling), these detectors will give an important warning if a fire or gas leak should happen in your home. **Do not install them in the kitchen, near ceiling fans, or near open windows.** Please read the instructions enclosed with the detectors. The detectors are free to those who sign up at Town Hall; however, the required 9v-batteries are not included.

### **FIVE CENTER BUSINESSES RECEIVE BUILDING UPGRADE FUNDS**



Congratulations to Center businesses who received funds from the Main Street Open for Business grant for the beautification of our downtown.

Center was awarded \$114,000 with the Town adding \$20,000 from our economic development fund. Those who applied worked with the Town by getting estimates and finding contractors to do the work. We will be watching for improvements at House of Hair, K&J Thriftway, Martha's Fashion and Laundromat, Vemco Electric, and Torterilla la Unica.

## **HEADS UP!**

Natural gas prices are seriously on the rise! Town employees are keeping a close eye, but there may be a need to raise gas prices to Center residents later in the year. See the letter from our Town Manager on page 2.



## **GET READY—TOWN BOARD ELECTIONS ON THE HORIZON!**

**RUN FOR  
OFFICE!**

Town Board elections are coming up in April 2022. There will be three seats open for Town Trustee. Any Center resident who is registered to vote is qualified to run. If you are interested we suggest you attend some Board meetings and become informed about Town Board business. Your involvement in the community will make you a better Town Board member.

Stay tuned!

**Attention Natural Gas Customers:**

***Letter from the Center Town Manager***

In keeping with open communications and transparency with the citizens of our town, The Town of Center would like to inform all NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS as to the nation's natural gas situation that is likely to affect us all.

Over the past 8 months, natural gas prices have steadily increased across the nation. The Town purchases gas at a wholesale cost from Xcel Energy in order to sell gas to the citizens of the town at affordable rates. These rates for our citizens have consistently been lower than for Xcel Energy customers in surrounding communities. The Town has continuously been monitoring the rising gas prices, and we have been comparing them to the gas sales to the citizens of the town. We had hoped the rising gas prices would level off and possibly get back to normal, but they have not.

What does this mean and how does this affect you? Simply put, the cost at which the Town purchases natural gas has increased higher than the rate at which we charge our natural gas customers. This has left the Town's monthly balance for Natural Gas Purchased vs. Natural Gas Sold in a negative balance. The Town continues to monitor this situation closely; however, in order to keep the Town's gas fund in the positive, rate increases to all natural gas customers will occur.

The Town does not know to what extent of an increase will occur, but please know we are doing our very best to keep the impact on our customers as low as we can.—*Brian Lujan, Town Manager*

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NOVEMBER***

**November 9, Tuesday, 6:00 pm:** Town Board Meeting, Town Hall.

**November 11, Thursday:** Veterans Day, Town Hall closed all day.

**November 23, Tuesday, 6:00 pm:** Town Board Meeting, Town Hall.

**November 24, beginning at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, through Friday, November 26:** Thanksgiving Day holiday, Town Hall closed.



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

*Happy Thanksgiving to all!*