

March 2025

GMF Town News



Thank You Town Volunteers!

Mayor's Memo:

There has been quite a bit of “behind the scenes” work going on in Town. In a February work session, the BoT discussed several goals to help our new Town Manager identify activities going forward. These are under the headings of “Increase the Quality of Life in Green Mountain Falls”, “Transparent and Efficient Governance” and “Excellence in Quality Service”. The Town Manager is already beginning work on some of the individual items identified and I am optimistic that some visible progress on the specifics can be seen soon. One of the items, Hotel Park Beautification, had a major milestone met today. One of the issues for implementing the park beautification that the Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee has envisioned has been the lack of water. This week, a water meter and valve that supplies water to that area was uncovered. We may need to do some work with replacing a frost-free hydrant, but having a water supply for that park should no longer be an issue. Another item that we should be seeing more about in the not-too-distant future is developing ballot language for the Special Election. My thoughts are to look at services and what it costs to provide those services at the lower end of the going rate for salaries. Right now, I suspect that the Town is below the lower end of that going rate. If my suspicions are correct, this would make us very non-competitive for hiring employees.

On another separate topic, there is a revision happening on what is called Regulation 43. This Regulation deals with on-site wastewater systems (i.e. - septic systems). This is a very complicated Regulation and there is a new part that has come in with this revision that could impact our local residents. The problematic part is under “Transfer of Title Inspections” and requires abandoning cesspools and putting in septic systems. The problem in identifying how that may affect us is that it leaves quite a bit of discretion with the “local board of health”. Right now, that inspection is at the discretion of an entity like El Paso County and they may not even require it. If they do and a property has enough room for a septic tank, then that could be very expensive for a property owner to comply with. However, there is also language in the Regulation that allows for repair of a cesspool and variance requests. There is a hearing on March 10th regarding the revision to Regulation 43 and if you'd like to send in comments you would need to email those by March 7th to: cdphe.wqcc@state.co.us. **I recommend getting with the Board of Health (EPC or Teller) before spending any money on wastewater systems.**

On yet another note, we may have an issue with El Paso Trail. As of this writing, El Paso Trail is not a defined Town Right of Way. In addition, it appears that the Town tried to “claim” El Paso Trail by a “Resolution” back in 2005. Unfortunately, this is not legal because it has to go

through the titling and deeding process. This issue is ongoing and there will be more to come.

We are currently in the midst of the lawmaking session in Denver. This is always a difficult time for me personally as many of the Bills that are being presented don't make much sense to me. For example, House Bill 25-1120 creates a government “enterprise” to provide loans for failing septic systems. Sounds good, right? The only problem is that they are funding this “enterprise” with fees on septic-systems. Between this and the Regulation 43 items, the cost of septic systems is bound to increase significantly. Another Bill would be to allow 5-story multifamily residential buildings to be served by a single stairway. So I guess if you are living in one of these buildings and someone sets fire to the stairway your choices would be to either jump or burn.

Grants:

Most of the Federal grants have been paused. We are confident that they will be re-started and once they are we will do our best to get the Applications in. This mainly affects the pursuit of funding for the Ute Pass Avenue bridge. One thing that I really do need to highlight is how much effort goes into applying for a Federal infrastructure grant. Fortunately, our previous Town Manager made arrangements to receive help from the State to apply for our bridge grant (at no cost to us). We do have the final documents from the company assisting us with this effort. Just the Narrative for this Application is over 30 pages long and the Benefit Cost Analysis file is so large that my Chromebook won't open it (the file is around 10MB). The Benefit Cost Analysis file has 24 tabs and must follow US Department of Transportation guidance. Had arrangements not been made for this professional assistance, I doubt that we would have any chance at receiving Federal Funding. One thing that we are going to do since the bridge grant is paused is to apply for a different grant to accomplish just the engineering for the bridge (which is now estimated at around \$750,000).

Fire Mitigation:

The Team Rubicon chainsaw training occurred in February. Special thanks to the Fire Mitigation Committee for organizing and hosting this event and for those who signed up!

Reminder:

Ice skating and ice fishing are currently not allowed on the Lake due to thin ice.

Calendar:

Mar 4th - Board of Trustees
Mar 11th - Planning Commission
Mar 12th - Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee
Mar 18th - Board of Trustees
Mar 31st - Fire Mitigation Committee

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The Marshal sent this to me to put in this month's Newsletter. It is from the Social Security Administration:

NATIONAL SLAM THE SCAM DAY

On National Slam the Scam Day (March 6, 2025) and throughout the year, we give you the tools to recognize Social Security-related scams and stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information.

Help protect your loved ones and people in your community this Slam the Scam Day by:

- Learning about the latest scams. Information can empower you to quickly recognize a scam. Signs of a scam include:
 - An unexpected problem or offer of a prize or benefit increase,
 - Pressure to act immediately, and
 - A request for an unusual payment like cryptocurrency, gift cards, gold bars, and wire transfers, even with the promise of keeping your money "safe."
- Reporting scams as soon as possible. Victims shouldn't be embarrassed if they shared personal information or suffered a financial loss. We are all vulnerable.
- Sharing our [Scam Alert](#) fact sheet and helping educate others about how to protect themselves.

Report Social Security-related scams to the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Visit www.ssa.gov/scam for more information and follow SSA OIG on Facebook, X and LinkedIn to stay up to date on the latest scam tactics. Repost #SlamtheScam information on social media to keep your friends and family safe.

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Marshal's report January 2024

Call type	# of calls	Outcomes if any
Case follow-ups	9	
911 hang ups	2	
Assist outside agencies	2	
Traffic complaint	0	
Citizen Contacts	2	
Summons service	1	
Attempt to locate	2	
Trespassing	0	
Domestic violence	1	Unfounded
Abandoned vehicle	0	
Traffic stops	4	
Parking complaints	0	
Check the welfare	1	
Suicidal check the welfare	0	
Noise complaints	0	
Traffic Accident	0	
Vin verification	0	
Theft	0	
Suspicious Incident	1	
Civil service	0	
Criminal Mischief	0	
Animal complaint	2	
Alarms	1	
Total calls for service	28	

Other agencies assisting us – 2 calls for service

Us assisting other agencies – 2 calls for service

NIBERS reports completed.

Citizen Contact upload completed.

Reserve hours worked – 7 hours.