November 2023

GMF Town News



Thank You Town Volunteers!

Mayor's Memo:

This month, I'm focusing on some of the background activity that is taking place in regards to the disaster declaration.

This past June, we received a combination of heavy rain and hail. This mixture did significant damage to our roads. El Paso County declared a disaster and Green Mountain Falls joined in with their disaster declaration. The declaration was signed and as of mid-October we are working on 2 to 3 different areas of financial assistance. The first area is for financing to repair what had been damaged. This would mean bringing roads back to the way they were before the heavy rains and hail. The second and possibly third areas are things that can be done to help make the "facility" (roads, in our case) more resilient to this type of damage. This is called mitigation. We (Town Staff and I) are making good progress on the damage repair and haven't started as of yet with the mitigation folks (FEMA has different groups that deal with damages and mitigation). So here's what it has taken to apply for assistance from FEMA for the damage repair.

- 1) Beginning with the original application back in late June, I drove around and took several pictures of the damaged areas. In our case, I believe I hit all of the dirt roads within GMF Town limits. When we had the initial meeting with the emergency operations folks, we had 24 hours to get our initial assessment in. We were able to meet that and at that time we believe we had roughly \$31,000 in damages (now it's looking closer to \$100,000).
- 2) I've attended a couple of briefings where I learned about the mitigation pieces of the disaster declaration. FEMA will pay out 75% of the claim amounts and the State is going to match an additional 12.5%. I'm really anxious to see what the Town can legitimately claim for mitigation.
- 3) We then began our meetings with the FEMA staff. They gave us information on what to claim and how to claim it. It was nice to learn that we could claim several things (like equipment usage) that we had not planned on with the initial application. By the time this Newsletter goes out, we will have had 3 meetings with FEMA.
- 4) I put together a large spreadsheet that includes employee time, employee overtime, contractor time, materials and equipment time (includes the dump truck, skid steer, water truck, backhoe, and grader) for both the "repair" and "mitigation". We are still working on "repairs" in Town.
- 5) We then broke the Town down by our maintenance Zones (1-4). This is to be able to fit our needs into FEMA projects (they are limited by the number of roads that can be included). We have been updating this spreadsheet to further define the repairs that are happening by Zone. I should note that FEMA really likes what we are doing with these spreadsheets.
- 6) FEMA is now entering information into their system to create the "projects". Once that is done and they have project numbers issued, we (Town) will have to take the information from the spreadsheets and enter it into their forms. I am very familiar with this type of activity because the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) controls the money and everything has to be put into forms that they accept. I should note that I've been able to enter in most of the information on these forms and they will be turned around very quickly once the project numbers are received.

More to come. We are still very early in the process. Mayor Dixon

Fire Safety Update

The Town is pursuing grant funding for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

CUSP cost sharing grant funds are still available through the end of this year. Contact Adrian Knight with CUSP - adrian@cusp.ws.

Town undeveloped ROW mitigation continues this month.

The Town Ordinance for nuisance trees is now in effect.

Grants/FEMA

The grant to develop the Broadband Strategic Plan and Broadband Feasibility Study or Needs Assessment has been awarded to the Town. The initial quotation for our documents ended up being over ½ of the total technical assistance funding, so the scope of our documents had to decrease.

Lake/Park Projects:

The next lake project will be the bridge going to the gazebo and will begin in the spring.

Recently, the Town was notified that a gift from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund will be given to the Town to completely re-envision the Pool Park area. More info to come!

Reminder:

Please cut down your dead/dying trees.

November Events - For times and locations, refer to the Town Website

7th - Board of Trustees (cancelled)

8th - Parks, Recreation and Trails

13th - Planning Commission

14th - Board of Trustees

21st - Board of Trustees

27th - Fire Mitigation



Marshal's report 9/23

Call type	# of calls	Outcomes if any
Traffic Control	0	
911 hang ups	8	
Assist outside agencies	3	
Domestic Violence	1	
Citizen Contacts	8	
Runaway	1	Found at other parent home
Follow ups	3	
Suspicious incident	2	
Harassment	1	*
Abandoned vehicle	0	
Traffic stops	6	1 Driving under suspension*
Parking complaints	5	
Check the welfare	0	
Trespassing	1	
Noise complaints	0	
Reckless Endangerment	0	
Motorist assist	0	
Sexual Assault	1	Happened at vacation rental- case to EPSO
Traffic Accident	0	
Disturbance	4	
Warrant arrest	0	
Animal complaint	8	Mostly bears in trash, 1 mountain lion sighting
Alarms	0	
Total calls for service	52	Down from 62 last month**

Other agencies assisting us - 3

Us assisting other agencies -3

NIBERS reports completed.

Citizen Contact upload completed.

Attended Ute Pass Elementary citizen info night/sign up for the Ute Pass Evacuation Exercise.

Hired Reserve Deputy Cannon Ball!

Below is the Public Assistance Process from FEMA. We have registered and applied for Public Assistance under the El Paso County disaster declaration from back in June. We are now Phase 2 with several more steps to go. If all goes well, we could be eligible for not only the repairs that have been done, but also mitigation items that would provide more resilience to future disasters. That could more mean culverts and ditches to help control storm runoff.

The Public Assistance Process





Artist Conception of the Bear Resistant Dumpster Blind...work will be beginning soon