



Town Board election will be by mail ballot; Election Day is Tuesday, April 5, 2022. The Town Board will meet on Thursday, April 14th and 28th.

Newsletter

April 2022

Town Board Matters

Election Day for the Town Board positions of Mayor and Trustee is April 5th; three Trustee seats are up for election. This is a mail ballot election. Ballots were sent out to registered voters in mid-March, if you did not receive your ballot and you are a registered voter in the Town of Oak Creek please come to Town Hall to obtain a replacement ballot. Ballots may be delivered to the Town Hall and the Town Hall will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. The next Town Board meeting will be held on April 14, 2022 starting at 6 p.m., and we urge you to attend in-person or from the comfort of your home via Zoom or Facebook. The Facebook Live event will be broadcast through the Town of Oak Creek's Facebook page. **Join this Zoom Meeting at** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81449378638>, Meeting ID: 814 4937 8638.

Luminate Broadband Will Be In Your Area Soon!

We've been hard at work constructing fast, dependable and affordable fiber internet in your area. We are thrilled to report that we are in the home stretch and it won't be long before you can experience the best internet in the Yampa Valley. The greatest part? **You may be eligible for FREE service!** If you are in our project area and have a student that attends SRSD or are a staff member of SRSD, the district will cover one year (2022) of broadband service to eligible and qualifying homes. For questions regarding eligibility and details, please contact luminatebroadband@southrouttk12.org.

See if your address falls within our project area at www.luminatebroadband.com.

Summer Camp - We're looking forward to a great summer!

Summer Camp Registration will start on Monday, April 11th. Registration forms can be found at Oak Creek Town Hall or at <https://townofoakcreek.com/programs-camps/>. Completed registration forms can be emailed to epetersen@townofoakcreek.com or turned in at Oak Creek Town Hall. Registration forms will not be accepted before Monday, April 11th at 8:00 a.m. Summer Camp is \$30 per child, per day. Tuition Assistance is available if needed.

Swim Lessons will run in the mornings from June 13th through June 24th at Old Town Hot Springs. Spots are limited! **Horseback riding lessons** will be offered Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from June 28th until July 21st.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Town of Oak Creek's Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 16th. There will be pictures with the Easter Bunny, Easter Crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt! The Easter Bunny will arrive at 10:00 a.m. and the Easter Egg Hunts will begin at 11:00 a.m. We will have four different age groups: 3 and under, 6 and under, 9 and under, and 12 and under. The Easter Basket drawing will be at 11:30 a.m.

The Internet is a Wild Place... Come Get Your Bearings!



*Media
Savvy*

"Digital Citizenship"
and
Online Safety



April 14th

6pm on @ Oak Creek Public Library (FREE)

117 Main St. Oak Creek, CO 80467

The Town is seeking to hire qualified people for the following full time positions:

Utility Billing/Deputy Town Clerk to lead utility billing services and provide accounts payable bookkeeping functions. The position interacts with the public and coordinates with Town employees; assists with Town elections; attends Town Board meetings and prepares meeting summaries; helps to maintain the Town's website and social media postings; and, assists with public records maintenance and responding to public records requests.

Public Works Maintenance Worker I to perform a wide variety of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled work in all phases of maintenance, repair and construction of roads, flood control, and other public works facilities including electric system, water and sewer treatment and distribution systems, parks and building maintenance and related public works programs. Experience in the operation of light and heavy equipment, mechanical aptitude, and construction trade knowledge is required. Knowledge of electrical power and water/wastewater distribution and collection systems is highly desirable. Must possess a valid Class B or higher CDL or be able to obtain such within six (6) months of hire. High school or GED diploma required.

Details at www.townofoakcreek.com/employment/ Submit applications to clerk@townofoakcreek.com.

Town Board Elections, April 5, 2022 – Meet the Candidates

Mayor

Nikki Knoebel, Mayor candidate

Being elected Mayor of the Town of Oak Creek has truly been one of my biggest achievements, as it has given me the ability to be a more effective voice within the community. It has also provided me the opportunity to volunteer for various groups that serve all of Routt County, allowing me to have an even greater impact. I teach tennis, ice-skating and cheerleading to South Routt elementary-age kids and I cherish my involvement in creating the kid's after school programs, summer activities and ice-skating events at the ice rink. I also continue to work with several local philanthropic organizations that assist our local families and communities with basic needs and a healthy lifestyle. I will very much appreciate your support and your vote.

Trustee

Melissa Dobbins, Trustee candidate

My family and I have lived in Oak Creek for over two years. Our family has purchased the former Sharp Street property known as the Community United Methodist Church of Oak Creek where we live. I teach yoga at South Routt Yoga, here in Oak Creek, and am also a stay at home mother for my daughter. In the past I have participated in various organizations including: volunteering on a Volunteer Fire Department and helping lead mountain biking trail development and MTB events. Through my volunteer activities I have become certified in Outdoor Emergency Care, Cave Rescue 1 and have had hands-on training experiences with Incident Command, Mass Casualty incidents and Triage. Please check out this website for more information about me <https://www.melissadobbins.com/>

Bernard “Bernie” Gagne, Trustee candidate

I have lived in Oak Creek for 20 years and have been a Town Trustee for 12 years, elected to 3, 4-year terms. My goal is to protect the health, safety and welfare of Oak Creek citizens, to protect the Town's “small Town character” and our Western Heritage from being overrun by outside influences, and to lay groundwork today that will preserve our community for future generations.

David Wolfson, Trustee candidate

We moved to Oak Creek about five years ago from the heart of the city in Milwaukee because we wanted to raise our family in a small, close-knit community. We found exactly what we had dreamed of here and I want to do my part in helping to preserve our town's way of life. My goals on the town board would be simple. 1) Maintain the fantastic programs we have (like the after school and summer programs). 2) Do whatever I can to keep the cost of living in Oak Creek affordable. 3) Be as open as I can in listening to the community and communicating with everyone who is involved in our wonderful town.

Shop locally for food & gifts, take the family out for a meal, and support South Routt businesses.

Joe Hragyil, Trustee candidate

I have lived in Colorado since 1994, previously residing in Missouri. I recently moved to the Oak Creek area to establish roots in a smaller community with cleaner air and endless opportunities to pursue my personal interests of hunting, fishing, and camping.

My prior work experience is the following: 12 years' experience as a Deputy Sheriff and Police Chief in Missouri; 10-plus years as an owner/operator of two restaurants in Missouri; 34-plus years as an HVAC owner/operator in both Missouri and Colorado.

This extensive history of interacting with the public and overseeing and managing the day-to-day responsibilities of owning a business would be relevant in determining the policies and laws necessary to regulate Oak Creek's growth and development. Thanks, Joe

Kelly McElfish, Trustee candidate

Residents of Oak Creek, it has truly been an honor, privilege and learning experience serving you as one of your Town Trustees since 2014. I am asking for your continued support and vote on April 5, 2022.

I have been a Routt County resident since 1999, and purchased my home in Oak Creek in 2012. My son was born in 2015 and I made the important decision to make this community our home and where I operate my business from.

As many of us have witnessed, the county has experienced significant changes and forecast calculations predict we will be seeing many more over next five years. Quality of life for the citizens of Oak Creek is always first on my agenda. Loving where you live is extremely important and expectations such as safe neighborhoods and schools, responsible growth and a good public infrastructure is at the forefront of each vote I have placed. During my tenure, I have been an unwavering advocate for the needs of our public safety, public works, and town administration departments. I have been committed to ensuring that the town provides effective leadership and what is needed to keep them safe, whether it be updated gear, equipment, training or manpower necessary to function to execute their jobs. Protecting the men and women who keep us safe everyday always has and will always will be a top priority.

Thinking out of the box, strategizing, and always being open for discussions, has proven to be successful in my professional career and following those principles on the town board is extremely important to me. I believe discussions by many are far more valuable than ideas by one. I learned very quickly early on, to research each agenda item, and not be influenced by those who may not have the town's best interest at heart.

With regards to our town's future, my top priorities include the following:

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- Securing the funding to make the repairs to Sheriff Reservoir Dam, ensuring the towns ability to have and provide drinking water and executing the project with the right organizations in place to protect our investment.
- Exploring, creating, and implementing some, and eventually all, of the Oak Creek recreational master plan that was completed in 2021.
- Prioritize attracting new commercial and industrial businesses and affordable home builders by actively promoting our town's resources and culture, leading to new revenue growth and local jobs.
- Implementing the county's new climate action plan and making sure we are taking advantage of all green renewable energy, when it comes to any build projects in the future.

Thank you for your consideration and I would greatly appreciate your support in allowing me to continue my work in the community.

Kellylmcelfish@gmail.com

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