



The Town Board will meet on July 8th & 22nd at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to participate virtually on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81449378638> , or on the Town's Facebook page.

Newsletter July 2021

Town Board Matters

The Town Board recently:

1. Had a discussion with representatives of the Oak Creek Mountain Park volunteer committee and SRRA regarding how to manage and fund the park, park trails and capital improvements. This group of local volunteers and the Town Board want to implement the vision of the Town and its partners when the park was purchased more than a year ago.
2. Discussed how to best use the federal government's American Rescue Plan's \$204,000 to benefit the Town and they determined to use these funds to: 1) make the Town's utility poles ready for broadband fiber to be hung; and, 2) to provide funding for Sheriff Reservoir & Dam repairs.
3. Approved a permit for the Tour de Steamboat bicycle ride to ride through Oak Creek from Steamboat on July 17th stopping at Bonfiglio's rest area.
4. Approved the purchase of a new squad car using 55% USDA Rural Development funding assistance and vehicle replacement reserves to replace an 18-year old vehicle due to its age and mechanical condition.

Fire Danger

NW Colorado is experiencing extreme drought and everyone's caution is strongly encouraged. For this year's Independence Day/July 4th please keep in mind that these types of **fireworks** can start fires and **Are Prohibited**:

- fireworks with a "report" (they can't go "bang" or "boom") ;
- fireworks that explode; or
- fireworks that leave the ground or travel such as: mortars, bottle rockets, or roman candles.

If you're traveling to unincorporated Routt County please know that the Routt County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to **enact Stage One Fire Restrictions** effective at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 16, 2021, that will remain in force until rescinded or upgraded.

Fire restrictions are considered only when very high or extreme fire danger exists and is predicted to persist. This determination is based upon current conditions, long-term weather forecasts, and upon the heavy, dry fuel loading which creates the potential for uncontrollable fires.

Upcoming Electric Power Interruptions

As part of the electric utility system maintenance by the Town's electric power suppliers the Town has been notified to anticipate short, approximately five minute, electric interruptions. These interruptions are scheduled for the following days and times: July 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.; July 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.; July 18, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.; and July 22, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. Hopefully these times will not change but it is always a possibility; Town staff will post any known changes on the Town's website and Facebook.

South Routt Education Funding Challenge

*Long-time South Routt locals Russell and Clay Garrity aim to motivate commitment to education in South Routt County with their recent pledge of up to \$25,000 in dollar-for-dollar matching funds to support the **South Routt Education Endowment (SREE) Fund**. With their contribution, the Garrity family seeks to bring the community together to invest in the future of education in South Routt.*

The SREE Fund was established in 2011 to support pre-K through 12th grade education in the South Routt School District. The goal of the fund is to raise \$1 million dollars and create a permanent, discretionary source of funding for the South Routt School District. The fund currently has a balance of \$207,000 and this matching challenge will bring the fund over \$250,000!

Once the goal is met, a committee of South Routt educators, students and community members will disburse funds annually. Funds may eventually go toward expenditures such as building and playground upgrades and buses, scoreboards, athletic facilities, arts and music studio spaces, science labs, and shop equipment.

<https://yvcf.org/25k-matching-challenge-to-bolster-education-in-south-routt/>

Main Street flowers

The Town's Main Street hanging flower displays were created this spring by the SOROCO Future Farmers of America, or FFA, students. The students approached the Town asking to prepare these displays and in turn were asked to design the floral displays and show off their skills by creating colorful welcoming displays while keeping maintenance needs at a minimum. There are approximately 30 – 12-inch hanging baskets along Main Street, with the vision that these floral displays will beautify Oak Creek and encourage passers-by to stop and visit one of the shops or restaurants.

Each springtime SOROCO's FFA students grow and sell flowers to the public. Consider visiting the high school's greenhouse in 2022 and supporting our local students.

COVID-19 updates are available online at Routt County's webpage: <https://www.covid19routtcounty.com/>

Routt County Public Health is testing anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and anyone who has been in close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, make an appointment.

Job postings

The Town is seeking to hire a **full-time Maintenance Worker** in the Public Works Department. This benefited position offers a wide variety of work in the Town's public works operations including electric system, water and sewer systems, and streets, parks and building maintenance.

Applications and full job descriptions may be found at www.townofoakcreek.com/employment/.

Utility Billing/Deputy Clerk change

Following the resignation of Ali Moore the Town has hired **Jennifer Hewes** as the Utility Billing/Deputy Clerk. Jennifer's email is Jennifer@townofoakcreek.com. She is a Routt County native with municipal experience and will be a great addition to the Town staff. The position helps water, sewer and electric utility customers with service needs and changes, helping coordinate Town staff and the public to address service questions and needs, and to prepare the monthly utility billings.

Summer Camp updates

The Town of Oak Creek's Summer Camp has been off to a great start! The campers have completed two weeks of swim lessons and have been participating in fun daily field trips. The campers are enjoying participating in the Summer Reading Program with the South Routt Library District. They are also partnering with Stagecoach State Park to participate in a nature interpretation program. The camp has 25 participants a day, and has been able to provide camp days for 40 children all together. We are excited to continue a fun summer with all of our campers!

Shop locally for your needs, take the family out for a meal, and support South Routt businesses.