



The Town Board will meet on July 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 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 2022

## Town Board Matters

The Town Board recently:

1. Was awarded \$80,000 by the Colorado River Water Conservation District to help pay for the final design engineering and State review fees of the Sheriff Reservoir & Dam rehabilitation.
2. Approved a final design engineering agreement with W.W. Wheeler & Assoc. for the Sheriff Reservoir & Dam rehabilitation.
3. Approved a land use change application from Franciosi Bros., to allow for additional use of their outdoor space, effectively expanding their restaurant and bar business space.
4. Considered moving local Town elections from April to November in even-numbered years. If approved by the Board this question will be included on the November ballot for voters to consider.
5. Approved permits for this year's Labor Day events.
6. Approved a request from the City of Steamboat Springs to hold a Town Challenge MTB race at the Oak Creek Mountain Park.

## Fireworks and Fire Danger

NW Colorado is experiencing moderate drought and everyone's caution is strongly encouraged. For this year's Independence Day/July 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Allowed fireworks (legal) include:

- fountains (pops, crackles, whistles, and screeches are okay too);
- sparklers;
- ground spinners; and
- anything that "pops" when a string is pulled.

Watch for bans that could prohibit anything that can be lit. Fire danger changes frequently and bans can be implemented at any time.

## Mountain Bike Race – Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at Oak Creek's Mountain Park

The Town Board has approved a request by the City of Steamboat Springs to host their July 13<sup>th</sup> Town Challenge mountain bike race at the Town's Mountain Park. Limited to 90 racers Town Challenge participants, along with their families and friends, will be practicing on the mountain bike trails early in July for their race and likely coming into town following their rides for refreshments. Parking for the event will be allowed along the south side of Nancy Crawford Blvd, at the Road & Bridge parking lot and a few other places. The races will begin around 4:00 p.m. and start in waves; fans and observers are invited.

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

## Oak Creek Farmer's Market

**Open every Sunday, June 19 – September 4, from 10AM – 3PM, with vendors providing locally produced food, agricultural products and local crafts.**

**The Farmer's Market is located on Sharp Street, north of Main Street, adjacent to the downtown park.**

## Thank you Greg Winkler, DOLA Regional Manager

Greg Winkler has served the Town, as it's DOLA Regional Manager, for over fifteen years, helping the Town find funds for local improvement projects. Greg has assisted the Town to improve the water distribution system, to fund improvements to the Community Center, to analyze community recreation needs and other projects. This July, Mr. Winkler will retire and we want to recognize his local achievements; and, say **thank you**.

## Code Enforcement - lawns

Is the stuff on your land (grass/weeds) tall enough to tickle a dog's belly? That likely means it's taller than 6-inches and needs to be cut down. July is a great time to do this. The big growth spurt is over and the climate is getting dryer. Shorter grass will lessen the spread of wildland fires and, with the hot weather, the grass and weeds tend towards dormancy. Dormancy means growth slows and you might not need to cut this again this season. Watch for grass/weeds over 6-inches tall and mow them all. Thanks.

## 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 beginning in 2021 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 2023 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-

## Utility Billing/Deputy Clerk change

**Leslie Rubalid** joined the Town's staff in April as the Utility Billing/Deputy Clerk. Leslie's email is [Leslie@townofoakcreek.com](mailto:Leslie@townofoakcreek.com). She is a Routt County native with great office and book keeping 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.

## Tramway Property Development for Residential Use

The Town owns approximately 6-8 acres of land in the southwest part of Town, sometimes referred to as the Tramway property. The Town Board is considering development of this property to help address housing needs, believing that approximately twenty five homes can be developed on this land through a combination of single- and multi-family development. The State of Colorado provides opportunities for town's to develop land for housing, including how to finance these developments. Consideration might be given by the Town Board to deed restrict the development to provide attainable home pricing for local workers. Like the Brown Ranch project in Steamboat this project will take a couple of years to put together, but the process has begun.