



The Town Board will meet on July 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<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

# Newsletter July 2023

## Town Board Matters

The Town Board continues working with engineers, State engineering officials and funding agencies to improve the 68-year old Sheriff Reservoir. Funding has been put together for phase one of the necessary improvements. Beginning in August 2023 the Town has hired contractor, Zak Dirt, will replace the dam's head gate and operating equipment. This equipment provides a way to regulate the reservoir's water level. This work will be completed in October 2023. For phase two, 60% completed design plans for spillway and reservoir improvements were submitted to the State Engineer's Office on May 31, 2023. Once these plans are reviewed and returned to the Town's engineering consultants, W.W. Wheeler, they will work to address comments and complete the design work for final submittal and improvement cost estimates. Town officials will meet with funding agencies and solicit funds to make the required spillway and reservoir improvements in 2024 with anticipated construction of the planned improvements underway in 2025.

## Fireworks and Fire Danger

For this year's Independence Day/July 4<sup>th</sup> please keep in mind that many types of **fireworks** can start fires.

### Prohibited Fireworks:

- 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 & Snakes
- Ground spinners
- 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.**

## Summertime is Code Enforcement time

We had a wet June and the grass and weeds are tall. Anything over 6 inches needs to be cut back. Cars are starting to stack up on our streets and in our yards. Illegal cars on the street will be given approx. 72 hours before being impounded. Yard cars will be given approx. 10 days. Junk still seems to accumulate despite everyone's best efforts. We will let you know what's wrong and will ask you to fix it before court action is started. We are all in this together. Help us keep your town clean and nice. Code Enforcement is difficult work and we'd rather just have things taken care of to keep the place looking good.

Call CSO Rossi with any questions or complaints about code enforcement. 970-736-8355.

Ralph Maher-MCJ  
Chief of Police

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

## Summer Camp 2023

Summer camp is off to a good start! We have been enjoying horseback riding lessons, trips to indoor rock climbing, local parks, crafts, the Oak Creek library and mini golf. We had The Cycle Effect come and teach us about bike safety and trail riding. The children are adventurous and having a great time. A huge thank you to our summer camp staff! We wouldn't have such a successful camp without them.

Alissa Hill - Director

Recreation & Events Coordinator

## Activities in Oak Creek for July

### ❖ Oak Creek Farmer's Market

Open every Sunday starting, July 9th – 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.

### ❖ South-by-South Routt Music and Food Festival

SXSR Music & Food Festival will be held Saturday, July 15th from Noon to 5:00p.m.

### ❖ Family Friendly Driving History Tour

The July program will be with Rita Herold and Virginia Rossi on Saturday, July 15th from 1:00-3:00p.m. The tour begins at the Yampa library, located at 116 Main St. Yampa CO

### ❖ Mountain Bike Race

Wednesday, July 12th at Oak Creek's Mountain Park.

MTB 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. You can find more information online at <https://www.townchallenge.com/info-schedule>.

## Bears, Trash and Birdfeeders

**There are bears present in our community as there are many attractants present here. If you see a bear please do not approach them; bears are big, strong and dangerous.**

This information comes from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife and will hopefully help our community to be safe from bears and protect bears lives. Bears are attracted to odors of all kinds. Human garbage smells great to a bear and is loaded with easy to access calories. Keeping bears away from trash cans prevents many serious problems for people and bears. Consider putting out your trash containers early Tuesday mornings for pick-up. Bring the containers back inside your garage before dark and close your garage doors and windows. Disinfect your containers regularly with ammonia or bleach cleaners (pine scent is ok, but no fruity or lemon odors).

Bears also love the easy meal bird feeders provide; consider feeding birds only while bears are denning (November – March). Birdfeeders are full of high-calorie food bears love and they provide lots of energy for very little effort. Some studies show over 80% of human-bear conflicts can be traced back to a bear's first encounter with a birdfeeder.

**Contact the Town Hall and ask for an upgraded trash container that is bear proof.**

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