



**GRAND LAKE
COLORADO**

April 2011

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NOTE: Check the website for
Public Hearings and News Up-
dates.

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TOWN OF GRAND LAKE NEWSLETTER

Grand Lake Elementary Receives Award



Congratulations to Grand Lake Elementary School students and staff!

Grand Lake Elementary School has been awarded the Governor’s Distinguished Improvement Award . The school demonstrated the highest rate of “student longitudinal growth” based on CSAP scores, measured by the Colorado Growth Model. Only 8.5% of Colo-

rado schools were given this award this year.

“It is a very big deal,” said William Bonk, principle consultant for longitudinal growth for the Colorado Department of Education.

“There are a lot of schools across the state that would love to be enjoying the same level of growth that these Governor’s Distinguished schools are. We can learn a lot from the schools that are demonstrating high student growth.”

The growth calculation method in Colorado education, first implemented in 2008, measures a student’s progress by comparing scores from previous years and comparing progress to academic peers across

the state who started in a similar place. Improvement is measured for all student achievers, from the bottom of the class to the top of the class.

Each school’s scores are measured and compared to scores of similarly aged students across the state on math, reading and writing.

The award is based on test scores for Grand Lake’s third through fifth grades.

The Governor’s Award factors in multiple years of growth percentages with complex calculations to arrive at the list of schools that have demonstrated the most growth. Using three years of data gives a “more valid view” of improvement, Bonk said.

Tree City USA

The Town of Grand Lake was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry. This is our 21st year to be awarded this national designation.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the US Forest Service.

Grand Lake meets the four standards to become a Tree

City USA community. Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“We commend Grand Lake’s elected officials, volunteers and it citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest,” said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees provide numerous environmental, economical and health

benefits to millions of people each day, we applaud communities that make planting and caring for trees a top priority.”



Planning and Zoning –Surveying

To ensure compliance with the Municipal Code regulations pertaining to Building and Zoning, the Town of Grand Lake conducts three site inspections for new construction projects. The Pre-Site Inspection is conducted prior to the Town's release of a building permit to Grand County Department of Building and Sanitation, whom the Town contracts with for building permitting and inspection services, to determine site conditions for the proposed development. Currently, the Town does not require identification of corners and boundaries to be completed by a licensed surveyor (the corners can be identified by the property owner) but strongly advises all new construction projects, including additions, to have a pre-construction survey conducted prior to permit and plan submittal.

The Setback Inspection is in place to ensure compliancy with the property setbacks, and is conducted prior to the setting of footer forms; setbacks are measured from the boundaries identified on the property. While the Town conducts this inspection and determines whether the project appears to be in compliance, there is no way for Town staff to ensure the structure is complaint. If corners and boundaries were not professionally set, and therefore not in the right place, the footers for the structure could be placed in a position that is not in conformance with the Zoning Regulations. Again, the Town strongly advises property owners to have a survey conducted prior to setting the forms for footers but currently does not require such survey to be conducted.

The Final Zoning Inspection is conducted to ensure compliancy with all Zoning Regulations applicable to the development project; this inspection is conducted after the property owner submits an As-Built survey of the new property to determine the compliancy of the structure with Zoning Regulations. By the time of submittal of this survey, if the property boundaries were not properly identified, the structure may not be in compliance; if not in compliance, property owners then may be faced with removal of the offending portion of the structure – a cost often far greater than the original plan.

To protect the property rights of the owner, as well as neighboring property owners and neighborhoods by ensuring that setback requirements are being enforced, the Town of Grand Lake is considering altering the Municipal Code regulations to start requiring pre-construction foundation certificate, in addition to the post-construction survey for new construction projects. The Planning Commission believes the Town's requirements may need to be amended to help a property owner/builder/contractor/Town know they are meeting the Town's requirements throughout all phases of development, so that by the time of Final Zoning Inspection, property owners are not surprised by a nonconformity that may cost time and money to rectify.

The Planning Commission will be holding a Public Hearing on this matter on April 20th at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall Board Room; this hearing will be to help the Commission formulate a recommendation for the Town Board's consideration. The Town encourages your comments regarding this matter. If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing, written comments may be submitted to: glplanning@townofgrandlake.com

The Town is on the Cover of the CML Magazine!



The Colorado Municipal League's monthly magazine featured this photo of Grand Lake on its April cover. Copies of the magazine are available at Town Hall for anyone who is interested in a free copy. Great publicity for the Town!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 23

*Easter Egg Hunt
Town Park*

May 7

Cabin Fever Follies

May 14

*Gardeners Exchange
Community House*

May TBD

*Town Clean Up Day
Arbor Day*

May 27

*Hands Across America
Trail Ridge Road Opens*

May 27 & 28

Bingo in the Park

May 28

Kauffman House opens

May 30

*Memorial Day Parade &
Ceremony*

Emergency Preparedness

In the event of an emergency, such as a wildfire, you will be asked to stay in place or move to a place of safety. Are you ready? Preparedness guides, preparedness checklists and a Relocation Plan checklist are available at Town Hall and the Grand County Office of Emergency Management, or by calling (970) 887-2732.

Resolve to be Ready in 2011.

Being ready before a disaster strikes isn't difficult - it all starts with a conversation. Develop a communication plan and make it a periodic topic of conversation with your family, have an evacuation plan, and learn different routes to work and home. Check this website for more information:
www.readycolorado.com

You should prepare your family by creating a family disaster plan. You can begin this process by gathering family members and reviewing hazards, warning systems, and community evacuation routes. Discuss with them what you would do if family members are not home when a warning is issued. Additionally, your plan should address the following:

- Escape Routes
- Family Communication
- Utility shut-off and safety
- Insurance and vital records
- Special Needs
- Caring for animals
- Lodging

For more information, check the FEMA website:
www.fema.gov/areyouready/emergency_planning.shtm

Grand Lake Fire Protection District, (970) 627-8428, has a community evacuation plan in case of a large scale evacuation. They also have handouts available for the public.

Sources of Emergency Information in Grand County

www.gcemergency.com

The most up to date website for emergency information in Grand County. Grand County Emergency Management is dedicated to reliable and timely distribution of emergency information. Incidents that would pose a threat to life safety, protection of property and/or environmental hazards will be posted on this site.

Code Red

Many people choose to only have a cellular phone in replacement of a land line. By registering for this free service, citizens and visitors in Grand County will get text messages, emails and/or voice messages regarding emergency incidents in Grand County. Register by going to www.gcemergency.com and scroll down to the registration link.

211

This service could positively impact any individual living in Grand County that may require assistance in the event of an emergency. This can include help with evacuation, health care needs, or extended in-place sheltering. Call 211 and ask to register yourself and/or a loved one for the special needs population registry.

You can also find **Grand County OEM** on **Twitter** and **Facebook**.

*Be prepared and stay informed
Any further questions or assistance please
call 970-887-2732*



Shop Local

The Town would like everyone to keep in mind how important it is to shop locally throughout the year. Our businesses-owners are composed of our friends and neighbors, which means that money spent in Grand Lake will continue to circulate throughout our economy many times over. The Town is obviously dependent on its tax revenues through the success of our local businesses, as sales tax revenue has traditionally made up 70% of our total revenues. Thus, we encourage each of you to spend your money in Town when possible—Costco does not plow your road, City Market doesn't mow the grass at the park, and Home Depot is reluctant to issue you a building permit.

The Chamber is currently working diligently on a shop-local campaign, and Lisa Jenkins, our fearless Executive Director, has been in contact with a few local business owners to start the foundation of what this campaign may look like. As such, the Chamber and the Town want to encourage everyone to get engaged on this topic and to share any ideas that you may have on how to incentivize people to shop locally.

Grand Avenue Garden Adopters Needed

The Town's Adopt-A-Lamppost Garden volunteer program is in need of full-time individuals or groups to take care of a small garden plot on Grand Avenue; gardeners are asked to commit to the garden plot for a minimum of one year. Gardeners may plant whatever they would like in their garden plot and maintain it throughout the 2011 growing season. This volunteer opportunity helps beautify Grand Avenue and allows for local gardeners to showcase their talents. Volunteers are automatically entered into summer contests and receive thank-you gifts from the Town of Grand Lake for their services. To learn more about this program and available gardens, please contact Abbi Jo Wittman at (970) 627-3435 or glplanning@townofgrandlake.com.



NOTE: The snowmobile trail in Rocky Mountain National Park is closed for the season. The USFS trails remain open but snowmobiles will need to be transported to the trailheads to access these areas. There is no longer a direct access from Town.