



GRAND LAKE
COLORADO

May 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 Clean Up Day



Come join us on Saturday, May 21st as we spruce up the town to make way for the sunny days of spring and summer. Please meet at 9:00 am in the Town Square Park. A barbeque for volunteers will follow at the Heckert Pavilion at noon.

Arbor Day

To celebrate the Town's 21st year as a Tree City USA, Arbor Day activities will be held on Monday, May 23rd at Grand Lake Elementary School at 10 a.m. The Mayor will give a speech to students, faculty and guests followed by Colorado State Forest personnel who will discuss the

benefit of tree care with students. The Town's Greenways Committee members and students will plant flowers to beautify the school grounds. Each student will receive a tree and planting instructions along with an Arbor Day pin.



Grand Lake Elementary Closure

The Grand Lake Mayor and Board of Trustees were shocked to learn on May 9th that the East Grand School District (EGSD) once again has Grand Lake Elementary school on the chopping block. The Town, along with the Towns of Winter Park, Fraser and Granby, the Board of

County Commissioners, Winter Park Ski Resort, the Grand Foundation for Education and many others have been working with the district to find sustainable ways to keep all of the community schools open into the future, so this abrupt about face by the EGSD has caught us all by surprise.

The next EGSD board meeting is scheduled for May 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the High School auditorium in Granby, and the subject of GLE's closure is on the agenda; the Town strongly encourages each of you to attend this meeting in order to have your voices heard on this issue.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14

*Gardeners Exchange
Community House 12-4*

*Work Your Pass Off Day
USFS, 887-4100*

May 19

Rude Awakening

May 21

Town Clean Up Day

May 23

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*

June 11 & 12

Arts & Crafts Fair

June 25

Tops of the Rockies

Proposed Changes to Building Permit Requirements

On April 20th, 2011 the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing regarding an Ordinance affecting Municipal Code Chapter 9: *Building and Fire Regulations*; the Planning Commission has forwarded a favorable recommendation of approval of a proposed Ordinance which, if approved, will alter the requirements for new construction in the Town of Grand Lake. The Planning Commission's recommendation requires preconstruction surveys for all new developments (unless a previous Improvement Survey Plat is on file with the Town of Grand Lake) which must depict at least two (2) set or found and verified corner pins.

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 compliant. 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 Planning Commission believes the Town's requirements should 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 Town Board of Trustees will be holding a Public Hearing on May 23rd, 2011, at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall Board Room (1026 Park Avenue) to hear the Planning Commission's recommendation. The Town encourages your comments regarding this matter. If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing, written comments may be submitted to: gplanning@townofgrandlake.com.

Consumer Confidence Report

The 2010 Consumer Confidence Report regarding the Town of Grand Lake's drinking water is now available for review at Town Hall and the Grand Lake Post Office. The report is also on the Town's website, www.townofgrandlake.com in the Water Department Section. To request a copy, please contact Marti Lund or Gay Dzinski at 970 627-3435 or email to town@townofgrandlake.com.

Bears in Grand Lake

Black bears have lived in the forests of Colorado since long before the pioneers arrived. Today 8,000 to 12,000 black bears are trying to share space with an ever-growing human population. With many more people living and playing in bear country, human-bear encounters are on the rise.

Colorado Bears Have People Problems

Every year, bears attracted to human food sources damage property, vehicles and even homes. Bears don't know they're doing anything wrong. They're just following their super-sensitive noses to the most calories they can find.

Black Bears at a Glance

Bears are intelligent, resourceful and amazing animals.

- Not all black bears are black. In Colorado many black bears are blonde, cinnamon or brown.
- Over 90% of a bear's natural diet is grasses, berries, fruits, nuts and plants. The rest is primarily insects and scavenged carcasses.
- Black bears are naturally shy, and very wary of people and other unfamiliar things. Their normal response to any perceived danger is to run away.
- Bears are very smart, and have great memories—once they find food, they come back for more.
- Bears are normally diurnal, but sometimes become more active at night in urban areas to avoid humans.

Bears want to get the most energy they can with the least amount of effort. Every bear's goal is to get fat enough to live through the winter.

Most conflicts between people and bears can be traced to easy-to-get-at human food, garbage, pet food, bird seed or other attractants. When people's behavior rewards a bear, a bear's natural drive to eat can overcome its wariness of humans. The key is to remove attractants.

NO FOOD = NO BEAR.

Bears that get too comfortable around people can destroy property or even become a threat to human safety. Habituated bears must often be destroyed. Please don't let bears die needlessly. Do your part to bear-proof your home and property, and help keep bears alive and wild.

Please help and do your part to keep bears wild.

Don't feed bears, and don't put out food for other wildlife that attracts bears.

Feeding birds (including Hummingbirds) will attract bears.

Be responsible about trash and bird feeders.

Burn food off barbecue grills and clean after each use.

Keep all bear-accessible windows and doors closed and locked, including home, garage and vehicle doors.

Don't leave food, trash, coolers, air fresheners or anything that smells in your vehicle. Pick fruit before it ripens, and clean up fallen fruit.

Talk to your neighbors about doing their part to be bear-responsible.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is available to answer your wildlife related questions. Wildlife Officer Scott Murdoch can be reached at (970) 531-3708.

TRASH TALKIN'

Pay As You Throw (PAYT)

The Town PAYT facility has been in operation since August 2010 and seems to be a hit with homeowners and visitors alike. The Town has listened to your comments about the large size of the PAYT trash bag (40 gallons), and determined at the May 9, 2011 Board of Trustees' meeting to add a second size PAYT trash bag for people to utilize. The second bag will be 25 gallons with a drawstring top and will cost \$3.00 (tax included). These new bags will be available around the middle to end of June 2011 from the same distributors that currently provide the 40 gallon PAYT bags. This smaller size should be better for people who have less waste, are here for a short time (or just passing through), or have difficulty with the size or weight of the larger bags.

BEAR AWARE!



Spring has sprung and that means that the bears and other wildlife are now getting out and about. That also means that they will sometimes get into mischief by prowling the Town for trash and other edibles. Please keep your trash secured away from these hungry critters and "KEEP WILDLIFE WILD". Your trash dumpster/can should be wildlife-resistant. If it is not and the wildlife gets into it, you could wind up with a summons to go along with having to clean up the mess. Neither are results anyone wants, and it isn't healthy for the animals either.

Sand Bags Available

Grand County Road and Bridge will be placing 10 yard stockpiles of sand that the public can use to fill sand bags if the need should arise. Sand bags are available at all four district shops, during business hours. The Town of Grand Lake Public Works Shop, located behind the Car Wash , has free sand bags for Town residents/owners only. (office hours 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Granby: Sand pile located in the north west parking area west of the main office (office hours 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Fraser Shop: Sand pile located just south of the perimeter fence by the main office (office hours 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Hot Sulphur: Sand pile located in the vacant lot just southwest of the library

Kremmling: Sand pile located in the fairgrounds just north of the Extension Hall (office hours 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Canoe/Kayak Slip Rental

The Town has constructed two new kayak racks and is offering seasonal slip rentals through its Headwater's Marina Enterprise. Each rack has six slips, and each slip can hold up to two kayaks (if they aren't too large), or typically one canoe, and are located on the southwest side of the beach area where the volleyball court is located, in front of the Western Riviera Motel, just a few feet from the kayak boat launch. Each space is available on a first-come, first served basis until filled, and are available now through Labor Day. The season rental cost per slip is \$150. Please contact Town Hall at 627-3435 with any questions.



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.

