

The HUDSON CONNECTION

The Town of Hudson Newsletter

Volume No. 85

JULY-AUGUST 2016



EVERYONE'S INVITED TO THE TOWN HALL GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th

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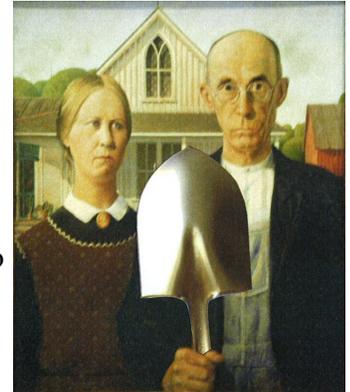
Join in the fun and be a part of the history of our little community. The Town is hosting a community celebration of the groundbreaking for the new Town Hall on **Saturday, August 6th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Along with our architect, Humphries Poli Architects, and our general contractor, Fransen Pittman, the Town is planning a true *community groundbreaking* on the site next to the library. **This will be your building and you are invited to bring a shovel and get in a group groundbreaking portrait photo that will be enlarged, framed and displayed in the new Town Hall lobby. The photo will follow a brief groundbreaking**

BRING A SHOVEL FROM HOME, GET IN THE PICTURE AND BE OUR GUEST FOR LUNCH

ceremony that will take place at 11:00 a.m.

Kids under 12 can bring sand-box shovels for the photo and to help them dig for treasure in a sandpile.



The Mayor and Mrs. Patch will be there!

As part of the event, the library will be hosting kids' face painting and balloon art by *Face to Face* and Ann Lincoln with her *Family Variety Show* at the library following lunch.

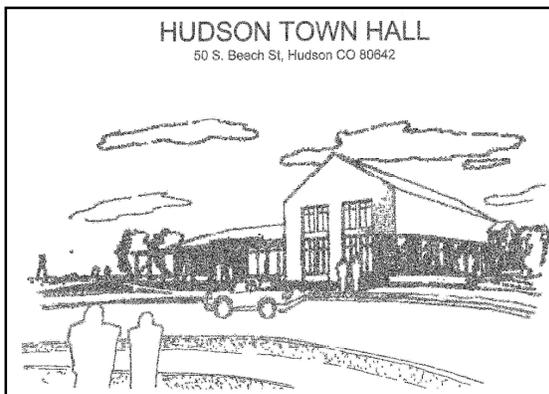
The first one hundred guests will receive free commemorative tee shirts to wear in the group portrait. (But if you're one of the last ones to get a tee shirt it might not be in your size...) You will also have an opportunity to submit your idea for the Town's new buffalo mascot.

The Town appreciates the support of the event sponsors. Halliburton and United Power will be hosting the lunch.

Half of the cost of the new Town Hall is being paid by an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund grant through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE COMMUNITY EMAIL LIST for notices of community activities. Email "subscribe" to info@hudsoncolorado.org

Town Council Regular Meetings
6:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd
Wednesdays



From the Mayor

Another busy month!! Bens Brick Oven Pizza is close to opening. The Best Western is nearing completion. And the Habitat for Humanity Veterans build house is under construction. Homes are under construction in Hudson Hills. Reconstruction of the building that houses our shallow well controls that was destroyed by a truck accident last February will be completed this month. And the proposed self-storage project is being readied for construction.

The public works department is very busy replacing water meters, repairing leaks in the park sprinkler system, weed control and everything else that comes up in the normal day to day operation of a Town.

The town is also preparing for an August 6th groundbreaking ceremony for the new town hall.

I am very excited as to what is happening in our Town, but I am also saddened by the fact that we experienced vandalism at the Veteran's Memorial and at the James Memo-



rial United Methodist Church.

The person or persons who perform these acts of vandalism show a lack of respect for sites that are special to the Veteran community and to the Christian community and to the citizens of Hudson.

I encourage every citizen to be vigilant of the surroundings where they live, walk and play and to report any suspicious acts to the Marshal's Department.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.hudsoncolorado.org

SOUTHEAST WELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOST 2016 NORTHEAST CORRIDOR EXPO

Are you a small business owner or start-up entrepreneur, a real estate broker, land developer or land owner interested in exploring possible collaborations for commercial, industrial, or residential development? If so, the Southeast Weld County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a free event you won't want to miss.

The *2016 Northeast Corridor Development Expo* will be held on Thursday, September 22nd from 9 to 1 at the new Wild Animal Sanctuary Welcome Center. Participants include the Small Business Development Center, Upstate Colorado Economic Development, Morgan County Economic Development Corporation, the Towns of Hudson, Keenesburg, Lochbuie and Wiggins, the Cities of Fort Morgan and Brush, Colorado's Aerotropolis Project, Spaceport Colorado Vision, educational and financial institutions, the local Colorado hemp farmers co-op, and others.

Learn more at www.northeastcorridor.org or call Dan Hamsmith, Director of Economic Development for the Town of Hudson, 303.536.9311.

RSVP at info@northeastcorridor.org.

CITIZEN SURVEY COMING IN AUGUST

Every year at budget time the Town sends out a survey to all town households, asking questions about preferences for public projects and programs, ideas for the budget, satisfaction with services and other current events. Your ideas and opinions are the foundation for next year's budget.

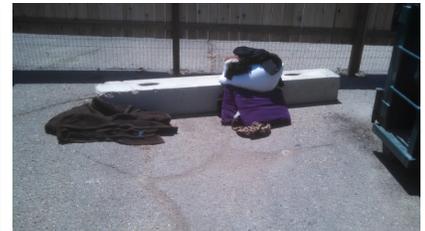
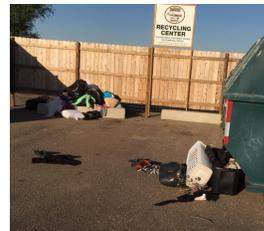
When you receive your survey in the mail, please get together and talk about it with others in your household, fill it out and return it to Town Hall. A report on the survey findings will be published in September.

Thanks for your interest.

The Anti-Social Corner

(A hopefully not regular column in the *Hudson Connection...*)

Just to let you know about some not-so-positive things going on in our little corner of the world:



Illegal dumping at the Recycling Center - right in front of the "No Dumping" sign.



Vandalism at the Hudson Veterans Memorial. Six flood lights broken.

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Success!! 248 Kids, 79 Teens and 112 Adults!! Check out our facebook page **HudsonLibrary(CO)** to view pictures of some of the events and crafts.

We'd like to thank our sponsors again for their generosity. We were able to give a t-shirt to every person that signed up for Summer Reading and provided every age group with fun programs.

This summer we have had some issues with underage children in the library, we've had to call a few parents. **Our policy** states that no children can come to the library unattended under the age of 12, except those checking in or checking out library materials. We truly want a safe environment for all children. A guardian, parent or caregiver must be in attendance for all those under the age of 12. For those 12 and older please make sure that they have someone to contact in case of emergency.

Plan to join Jesse Esparza August 31, 2016 for **"Writing Your Business Plan"** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00



p.m. A \$25.00 deposit is required, but will be returned to you, unless you cancel. This seminar will provide you with a guide for building a successful business focused on achieving your personal and financial goals. You can find **Jesse Esparza** in the library on the second and fourth Wednesdays for **free** business consultation.

If technology and coding is your thing, join us on Thursdays for **Tech Time** with John Honnold at the Library. It's for grades 4 & up at 4 p.m. You will learn coding, how to write software and more!! Check out these websites: scratch.mit.edu & raspberrypi.org & codeclub.org.uk Please contact John at HUDSONLIBRARYPI@gmail.com.

Our **Community Room** can be booked to use during normal library hours. Currently private parties are not allowed. Civic groups may use the room at no charge. Please view the full Community Room Application at the library for further details.

Programs sponsored by the library are always **FREE**.

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

We have received our preliminary budget numbers for 2017 from the Weld County Assessor's office. It appears that the fire department's budget will be reduced by over 50% starting in January 2017. The cause; 48% reduction in assessed valuation and 60% reduction in oil and gas tax revenue. This reduction will result in the potential for laying off firefighters, the inability to purchase and maintain equipment and apparatus or to improve the fire department.



is considering a ballot question this November that would ask voters to approve an increase in the Fire District's mill levy from 3.464 to 7 Mills. By comparison, current mill levies in neighboring districts are 7.896 in Southeast Weld Fire District and 11.795 in the Brighton Fire Rescue District.

Please contact us if you have questions.

If you can, take the time to stop by your fire house and say hello to your firefighters.

Property tax is the primary source of revenue for the Fire District. Any tax increase requires a vote of the people. The District Board

Respectfully,
Ken Gabrielson
Fire Chief

Town Considering Broadband Question for November Ballot

In 2005 the State legislature passed, and the Governor signed, a bill that prohibited municipalities from directly or indirectly providing cable TV or internet services to the public. The bill's impact on underserved rural communities was to make it more difficult for local government to step in and provide a service that was not being provided by the private sector. An exception is made in the bill by which communities could opt out of the bill's restrictions through a local election.

Hudson is currently underserved. Residents and businesses needing faster internet service have few or limited options.

Since adoption of the bill, voters in communities throughout Colorado have voted to opt out, providing an option for their cities and towns to provide high speed internet service or to partner with private sector providers. Approval of a ballot question would not require the Town to get into the business. It only provides the ability in the event that the Town Council would decide to meet that unmet need.

Recreation Round-up

The Yoga and Bootcamp classes, as well as the general interest classes scheduled over the summer had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. We will try again to see if we can be more successful in the fall! Fall sessions will be starting at the beginning of September! We are bringing fitness classes and creativity classes to Hudson and we would like you to join us! Join our Town of Hudson community email list to stay informed on the upcoming recreation opportunities!

Please feel free to email recreation suggestions to bstam@hudsoncolorado.org.

INTRODUCING

“ *** THE BUFFALO ”

For as long as some of the old-timers around here can remember, the American Bison has been a symbol of Hudson. “Bison Highway” is the local name for Highway 52. From the buffalo figures on some of the old, faded street name signs to the Town’s logos to the buffalo heads at the Pepper Pod, we’ve been surrounded by those critters for a long time. So...we thought it was time to formally recognize the buffalo as the Town’s mascot.

Billie Stam, the Town’s Recreation Director, designed a buffalo graphic that will be used in the Town’s publicity and marketing. Great job, Billie!



But one thing is missing. He/she doesn’t have a name. That’s where you come in.

At the August 6th Town Hall groundbreaking, and at Town Hall until August 15th we will be accepting entries into the “Name the Buffalo” contest. The Town Council will select a winning entry at the August 17th Council meeting. The author of the winning entry will be recognized at a subsequent Council meeting and will forever be known as the person who named the Town Buffalo. (We will, of course, respect any request for anonymity if the winner doesn’t want to be known forever as the person who named the Hudson Buffalo...) (The Town Clerk has advised us that “Linnette the Buffalo” is off limits.)

THINGS TO DO IN HUDSON

TOWN HALL Groundbreaking

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 6th**

(next to the library)

10:00 - 1:00

Ceremony at 11:00

FEATURING:

KIDS TREASURE HUNT

BALLOON ART

COMMUNITY PHOTO

FACE PAINTING (VOLUNTARY...) 😊

FAMILY VARIETY SHOW

SOUVENIRS

TEE SHIRTS TO THE 1st 100

GOOD COFFEE & SMOOTHIES

VERY SHORT SPEECHES...PROMISE!

**BRING A SHOVEL, GET
YOUR MUG IN THE PHOTO
AND ENJOY A FREE LUNCH**

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

- **UNITED POWER**
- **HALLIBURTON**
- **HUDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE
TO BE A PART OF
HUDSON'S HISTORY**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GROUNDBREAKING A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone in the community that came out for the groundbreaking for the Habitat for Humanity Veteran's build project on June 9th. It was a great success.

A special thanks to local musician and composer Kory Brunson for singing the National Anthem and for providing additional entertainment. Thanks also to the American Legion family, Unit 180 Junior Auxiliary, Brush Unit Ladies Auxiliary and District Commander Dave Force.

Construction moving along

Construction on the first house is well on its way. Habitat's volunteer slots for the first house are filled, but they will need help when the planning for the second veterans house begins.



Zach Reyes and Andy Phelps, Habitat's Construction Director, work on the Veterans Build project on Cherry Street



Volunteers from ATMOS Energy put up the first walls on the Habitat House

Hudson Festival Recap

The Hudson Festival was held on Saturday June 18th. It ended up being a small event that included vendors and activities for children in the Community. We hope to have more of you join us at the annual event next year on Saturday June 3rd!

Please call Town Hall if you have questions or comments about this year's event, or if you would like to volunteer to help stage the event next year.



Photo by Town Utility Worker, Scott Borewyk, near one of the Town's water tanks.



Start your day off right. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:30am join Billie for a "walk and talk" around the fishing pond.



Ben & Sheila Benjamin, 25 Dahlia



Nathaniel Hart, 521 Beech



Michael Warren, 850 First



Bev Judd, 621 Grape

2015 Audit Presented to Council

On July 20th the Town’s Auditor, Wendy Swanhorst, presented the audit of the Town’s 2015 finances. The Town ended the year with a healthy \$1.6 million in general fund balance.

The only significant concern in the audit was that the water and sewer funds continue to lose money due to artificially low rates. The Town Council is discussing a rate study next year that would serve as a basis for setting new rates. As “enterprises” of the Town, the water and sewer systems are required by law to be self supporting, with subsidies from other Town funds being restricted. The Town obviously can’t sell these services for less than the cost of producing them.

Hudson’s water and sewer rates are among the lowest in the region. Keeping rates as low as

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROGRESSING

Town staff and the Planning Commission have been engaged in a number of activities that will be incorporated into the on-going comprehensive plan process. The activities include:

Development of Economic Development strategy and action plan which is design to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life for those in the community. Among others the actions are designed to encourage the retention and expansion of existing businesses, expand and diversify the tax base of the community and encourage the development of workforce housing and services for employees of new or expanding businesses.

Preparation of a Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan which inventoried the existing facilities in the Town and estimated the demand for additional park land and trails. The lack of park land south of State Highway 52 is viewed as a need that is lacking for residents and Town owned land is viewed as an opportunity to fulfill that need. Trails have been consistently identified in each of the Town’s annual surveys and the plan envisions a system of looped trails connecting neighborhoods, the school and new park land.

A plan for the I-76 and State Highway 52 interchange is just getting underway. The construction of the Best Western Plus Hotel and Ben’s Brick Oven Pizza restaurant are drawing interest from the development community. A plan for the area surrounding these new developments and the area south of State Highway 52 will provide prospective investors with the Town’s vision for the area and will hopefully stimulate interest to develop.

Each of these components will be incorporated into the overall comprehensive plan for the community.



possible, while maintaining high quality service and operating according to State law remain goals of the Council. More will be published as the process moves along.

Annual Adjustment

The Town’s water and sewer rates are automatically adjusted annually for the change in the previous

year’s cost of living. The local consumer price index increased 1.76% in 2015. Effective with the July billing, the Town’s rates will be increased by that percentage.

Keep in mind that the annual rate adjustments do not solve the revenue problems for the utilities. They only keep the problem from getting worse.

News from Town Hall...



- NOAA weather radios are still available at Town Hall. So far the Town has distributed over 100 radios to Hudson residents.
- This year’s deadline for purchasing commemorative bricks for the Veterans Memorial is **September 1st**. Contact Town Hall if you’d like to honor a vet with an engraved brick.
- The Town Council approved an agreement with Weld County providing for some shared responsibilities for the mile of County Road 49 that is in Hudson. The County is moving ahead with it’s road widening project.
- The Council is moving ahead with refinancing about \$3 million of outstanding bonds from the street paving project. Lower interest rates should save the Town over \$30,000 per year.
- We are very sad to announce that after seven years with the Town, Town Clerk-Treasurer, Linnette Barker, has announced that she will be leaving at the end of August. Linnette and her family are moving to Texas. Assistant Becky Utecht will be taking over the job. Good luck, Linnette! You’ve done a wonderful job for Hudson!

STREET SWEEPING

The entire town will be swept during the day on the **THIRD WEEK OF EVERY MONTH:**

Mon-Tues: ODD SIDE
Wed-Thur: EVEN SIDE
Please don’t park on the designated side of the street on sweeping day!

COUNCIL ADOPTS 2016 COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

In July of 2015, a diverse group of county and municipal stakeholders came together to update the Weld County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Over the course of the next several months, the planning committee re-evaluated local risk and vulnerability to hazards, created cross-jurisdictional partnerships and public outreach processes, and developed a new, robust, county-specific hazard mitigation strategy. After review and approval by the State of Colorado and FEMA, Weld County and its municipal partners, including the Hudson Town Council approved and adopted the plan in 2016. If you would like to review the 587-page Hazard Mitigation Plan, including the chapter on the Town of Hudson (starting on page 440), go to www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/OEM/.



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NOTE THE \$20 QUIZ RULES



It's Coffee Time!

Please join us for a Senior Meet and Greet!

At the **Hudson Public Library**

Wednesdays
10am-12pm

Hudson Fire Department will be conducting Blood Pressure Checks from 10-10:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month

This is an opportunity for good conversation with other Seniors in the community and enjoy some light refreshments. Please feel free to contact Billie Stam at 303-563-9311 or bstam@hudsoncolorado.org with any questions.

Provided by the Hudson Recreation department!



\$20 QUIZ!



Complete this quiz correctly, clip it out, and return it to Town Hall. **FIVE correct** entries **received during regular office hours by August 25th will be drawn at random** and will win a **\$20 credit on their water & sewer bill** (or, if you're not the one who pays utilities, we'll come up with another non-cash prize). (Only one entry per in-Town household.)

1. Where is the site of the new town hall? _____
2. What do you think should be in the time capsule at the new Town Hall? _____
3. What week of the month does the Town sweep streets? _____
4. What is the deadline for purchasing Veterans Memorial Bricks? _____
5. What implement should you bring to the town hall groundbreaking? _____
6. How many flood lights did vandals break at the Veterans Memorial? _____
7. When is the **2016 Northeast Corridor Development Expo** scheduled? _____
8. What is your idea for a name for the new Town mascot? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

(For Office Use: Date & Time Received: _____)

\$20 WINNERS!

The winners of the last \$20 QUIZ, each receiving a \$20 utility bill credit:

- Robert Aichelman
- Sylvia Botelho
- Stacy Reuter
- Linda Windle
- Jason Yekley

Congratulations to our winners. Get those entries in early!

THE HUDSON CONNECTION

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT THE
TOWN HALL AT 303-536-9311.**

REMEMBER... Town Board meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month are open to the public. Agendas are posted in the Town Hall window and at the Post Office.

**Visit the Town's web site for more up-to-date news about what's going on:
www.hudsoncolorado.org**



Town of Hudson
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Hudson, CO 80642

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