



The HUDSON CONNECTION



The Town of Hudson Newsletter
Volume 51, September - October 2010

Hudson Comes Together for the Hudson Angels Holiday Toy Drive

The Town of Hudson and the Hudson Public Library are proud to host a Holiday Toy Drive on behalf of the *Hudson Angels* organization. The *Hudson Angels*, founded by Jeannette Patterson, delivers food and gifts to local families in need all year long. Financial contributions will help pay for utility bills and food for those in need. Jeannette is a recipient of the Channel 7 "Everyday Heroes" award.



It's time to start thinking about the Holidays in Hudson!

Community residents are asked for donations of new, unwrapped toys for distribution by the *Hudson Angels* in our area. The toy drive will run between November 1 and December 10, 2010.

Toy drop-off locations:

- Hudson Town Hall
- Hudson Public Library
- Hudson Fire Station (downtown on Cedar Street)
- And collection boxes for toys located around town

The Pepper Pod Restaurant and Valley Bank and Trust are collection sites for both toys and non-perishable food. Food and financial contributions are accepted by the *Hudson Angels*. Call 720-244-3137.

Community support for the *Hudson Angels* has been town wide with the Pepper Pod Restaurant being a collection point since the day the program started, and Valley Bank and Trust as a collection site for food and toys. The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce is always a strong supporter.

The ultimate success depends on the generosity of the local community. Some suggestions for children in different age groups :

Infants/Toddlers: Rattles and squeeze toys, musical toys or mobiles, unbreakable baby mirrors, crib toys, picture books, stacking and sorting toys, dolls.

Pre-School: Building toys (large Lego's®, blocks); cars and trucks; dolls and doll clothes; books; crayons; markers; coloring books; story and song tapes; stickers; new stuffed animals; simple board games.

School age children: Craft sets; playing cards; hand-held games; dolls and doll clothes; books and comic books; jigsaw puzzles; clothing; board games.

Teenagers: Wallets, calendars and posters, mirrors, grooming kits, hair accessories, athletic equipment, music, board games, craft kits.

Other items needed: Wrapping paper, tape, gift tags, and volunteers.

What to avoid: Used toys and used stuffed animals; toys stuffed with shredded foam, small pellets or beans; toys with detachable parts (like button eyes) that could be removed and swallowed or inhaled; electrical, spark-producing or friction-producing Toys; fragile toys that can break into small pieces with sharp edges; toys made of glass or brittle plastic; toys with sharp edges or protrusions; toys or craft kits with toxic paints or glues; toys with parts that can pinch fingers or pull hair.

Please remember that we can only accept new, unwrapped items. We appreciate your support!

2010 Citizen Survey Results

One of the basic principles of a successful community is that there is an understanding between the citizens and their local government regarding basic matters of governance. Citizens pay taxes and fees. Government delivers value back to the citizens in the form of services, programs and public facilities. Citizens defer to the greater good of the community by complying with certain rules. Local government adopts and enforces those rules. For example, someone might not have a personal priority on mowing weeds on his or her property, but not doing so diminishes neighbors' property values and reduces the ability of neighbors to enjoy living in the neighborhood. So, there are rules about yard maintenance.

In order to make this work in Hudson, there needs to be good communication among citizens and between citizens and the Town government. Every year at budget time the Board of Trustees has to look at the limited resources available to the Town and plan for use of those resources to best serve the citizens, to deliver the best value. In an effort to better understand the priorities and concerns, the Town conducted a survey of all households in Hudson in early September. Included in the survey were questions about satisfaction with the wide range of Town services, and priorities for public improvements. The end of this article is the tabulated data from the survey. A written report, including comments, is available at Town Hall or on our web site, www.hudsoncolorado.org. The nine pages of written comments were too long to publish in the newsletter.

Of 492 surveys distributed, 124 were completed and returned, a 25% response rate. The survey distribution included stamped return envelopes. The response rate, while not great, was substantial.

In addition to asking for ratings, the survey provided space for written explanations of answers. This is important because, for example, rating a service like code enforcement "poor" does not in itself explain whether the person completing the survey thinks there is too much or too little code enforcement, or whether codes are too strict or too lenient. (From the written responses, people were

on both sides of that issue, although most comments supported stricter enforcement.)

The survey is also limited in that it is only a one-time effort. The real value of the survey will be realized if we can keep it going annually, and track whether we are improving over time. We hope to repeat the survey at budget time in the future, and to include more issues of current importance.

Here are a few things that we learned:

- The higher levels of satisfaction are with the Library, the Clerk, and the newsletter.
- The lower levels of satisfaction are with code enforcement, animal control and law enforcement.
- Higher priority was given to traffic improvements, law enforcement, and business development.
- Lower priority was given to public buildings, parks and recreation and beautification.
- Written comments regarding items with low satisfaction tended to support stricter yard maintenance and code enforcement, specific street and traffic control improvements, and additional law enforcement hours.
- The newsletter is a popular and effective way for the Town to communicate. Notes on utility bills and posters are also effective.
- The average length of residency for survey responses was 15 years, indicating that people who have lived here longer tended to be more active in answering the survey.

The Town welcomes questions and comments at any time. Please feel free to call Town Hall, come to a Board meeting, or email us at info@hudsoncolorado.org.

Thank you to everyone who returned a survey. Your ideas and opinions help us do a better job.



It's Time to Comment on the Budget

On October 6th the Town staff delivered a DRAFT 2011 budget to the Board of Trustees. Over the next two months the Board will be reviewing and revising the draft. 6:00 p.m. work sessions on October 20th and November 3rd will be devoted to the Budget, with a public hearing at the regular meeting on November 17th. The 2011 Budget is scheduled for adoption at the December 1st meeting. Your comments are welcome. What would you like to see the Town doing next year?

Additions to next year's budget book that are being considered are a "Capital Improvements Plan" that will help the Town plan for financing projects over the next five years, and a vehicle and equipment replacement plan that will act as a savings account to set money aside for purchase and periodic replacement of vehicles and equipment.

The budget is a plan for how the Town will use its financial resources for the coming "fiscal" year. Hudson's fiscal year is the calendar year, beginning January 1st. Budget discussions are open to the public.

NEWS ON WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES

There are a number of new components to the Town's water system. Upgrades to the Fort Lupton treatment plant are nearing completion that should greatly improve the plant's efficiency. Hudson owns a share of that plant that treats the "Colorado-Big Thompson" portion of our supply.

Recently, the new 1,000,000 gallon water storage tank and booster pumping station were activated. The tank and booster station were built by Cornell Companies as part of their development agreement, and dedicated to the Town. Land for the tank was donated by Sparboe Farms.

Later in October the Town will have the two elevated tanks inspected by divers and cleaned. The older of the two tanks is past its 90th birthday!

The Town is planning to construct a new building to house the electronic controls and valves for its main water well.

HUDSON GOES HOLLYWOOD



Hudson "went **Hollywood**" on Tuesday, September 24th as it partners with the Vintage Aero Flying Museum presented the local film documentary *Mission: Dawn Patrol* at Town Hall. The film documents the over 3,000 mile round trip journey of three replica WWI German Fokker fighter aircraft from the Vintage Aero Flying Museum in Hudson to Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.



The film captures three modern day pilots, flying cross-country in airplanes designed as WWI fighters with short distance capabilities.

Historical film footage of the original WWI pilots and their Fokker airplanes is interspersed throughout the production.

The documentary, narrated by legendary broadcaster Hugh Downs, was produced and directed by Art Annecharico, an Emmy Award winning Hollywood studio executive.

Then on September 25th the Town tried a new event with its first "movie in the park." Town crews built a movie screen for the outdoor presentation of *Invictus*, starring Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman. About twenty people enjoyed the Saturday event on a the chilly fall evening. We plan to offer more movies in the park in 2011.

FIRE STATION NEARING COMPLETION

The new Hudson Fire Station #1 will be open soon. The Fire District is planning an open house. Watch for fliers around Town and come join the Firefighters enjoying the kick-off of the new station. REMINDER: There is no parking in front of the Fire Station truck bays.

YARD OF THE MONTH WRAPUP

With much appreciation to all of the residents in Town 2010 *Yard of the Month* contest has been a success. The judges could have awarded several winners but were only allowed to choose three residential yards per month in June, July, August and September. The biggest problem turned out to be that there were so many more yards that could have been chosen!! But like the Chicago Cubs...there's always "next year."

One winner's neighbors took turns "stealing" the Yard of the Month sign and putting it in other yards that were also deserving.

The local Business owners helped make the contest a success coming forward each month to donate items for the winners' gift baskets. We plan to have this contest next year. If you have any ideas or comments for next year, please send to mostimproveyard@hudsoncolorado.org.

PHASE 2 OF THE WASTEWATER PROJECT ON SCHEDULE

The Town is on schedule to complete its wastewater project by mid-2011. Construction should begin in November for the lift station and sewer main, connecting the main part of Town and the Hudson Industrial Park to the new treatment plant. The project includes abandonment of the old wastewater lagoons located west of Love's. (Hooray!)



On August 3rd, Jim Isgar, Colorado State Director for the USDA Rural Development, members of his staff, Congresswoman Betsy Markey and others visited the new plant to present a ceremonial check to the Town, representing \$4,990,000 in grants and loans for Phase 2 of the project.

August Winners



September Winners



FALL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the fall events in Hudson:

- Pumpkin Patch, October 29th, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Town Park.
- Budget hearing. Wednesday, November 17th, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- Town Hall lighting and Santa's visit, December 3rd, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall.

The Events Committee is looking for more volunteer members to help in planning and organizing future events and celebrations for the community. Call Town Hall if you are interested.

UTILITY COMPANIES RECOGNIZED

On September 15th the Board of Trustees recognized contributions from two utility companies. Jim Gooding, plant manager from Calpine's Rocky Mountain Energy Center was on hand to receive a plaque in recognition of his company's ten years of financial contributions to the Town, totaling \$1 million. 2010 marked the last of the annual \$100,000 contributions. Mayor Pontius emphasized that a tremendous amount of credit that goes to Calpine for honoring its commitment to Hudson. Thank you Calpine!



Later in that meeting, Randy Reese from United Power presented Mayor Pontius with the Town's annual "Capital Credit" check in the amount of \$1,936.75.



Mr. Reese explained that he and others at United Power are working closely with Town staff and engineers to find ways to cut the power costs at the Town's new water and wastewater facilities.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE REVISED

On September 15th the Board of Trustees approved Ordinance No. 10-08, a comprehensive amendment to Chapter 16 of the Hudson Municipal Code, the Land Development Code. The amendments were the culmination of several years of work by the Planning Commission and Town staff in compiling omissions and items that were in need of clarification or correction. The Land Development Code includes the Town's zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and standards for commercial signs, oil and gas facilities, and telecommunication towers.

The goals of the code revision project were as follows:

1. Make the code more readable and "user friendly."
2. Shorten the length of the code without sacrificing necessary detail
3. Correct outdated and conflicting language.
4. Add definitions of terms where needed.
5. Delete unused zoning district classifications.
6. Improve enforcement capabilities and administrative rules.
7. Provide for some new land use categories, such as "temporary" uses.
8. Streamlines the review and approval process.

The revised code is available for viewing on the Town's web site. Call Town Hall if you have questions.

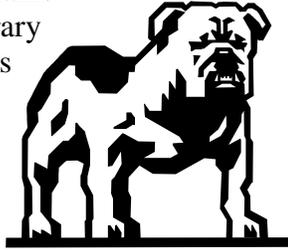
HUDSON HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

As we approach the Holiday Season start thinking about the unique decorations and out-lighting your neighbors house (friendly competition). All residents and businesses are encouraged to demonstrate their holiday spirit and showcase their decorating creativity. Awards will be given for the best residential and business property holiday display. Judging will begin December 1, 2010.

HUDSON LIBRARY NEWS

by Terri Redden

In conjunction with the Highplains “Common Read” Hudson Library sponsored a Dog Parade. It was held on Saturday October 9th at the Hudson Memorial Park. The book for the district wide read was “The Art of Racing in the Rain” by Garth Stein.



The humans enjoyed hot dogs and the dogs enjoyed dog biscuits on a glorious fall day.

Our contest winners were:

- *Chip* - Cutest Dog category, owners Shay and Ty Thompson
- *Hayden*- Ugliest Dog category (we had to ask for a volunteer in this particular category, can you imagine why?) owners Tyrene & Brian Cook
- *Sparky*- Best Costume, owner Carol Ann Moreno
- *Max*- Best Retriever, owner Jo Bowen
- *Ralph*- Best Behaved, Owner Tyrene & Brian Cook
- *Batman*- Dog that most looked like its owner, owner Brian & Laura Cornell

The dogs give a big bark of appreciation to:

Marcia Davison from Dogs Unlimited who helped plan the event, created the lovely posters seen around town and in the newspaper and for taking photographs for us.

Alice Jansen from AAB awards for the wonderful award ribbons.

Brian Cook and his wife *Pat* for the wonderful dog demonstration and question and answer session afterwards.

Marcie Weeks, librarian, who came up with the lovely idea for the dog walk and did the hard work to make it a fun happening.

We had positive feedback and would like to make this an annual event.

The Hudson Library will be a drop off spot for Christmas gifts for the toy drive sponsored by the “Hudson Angels”. The toy drive helps those in need in Hudson and the surrounding areas. We are taking donations of new unwrapped toys, nothing homemade please, and wrappings for the gifts.

When you bring in your gift we’ll give you a coupon for a free coffee and put your name on a holiday decoration to hang in the library. We are planning to get the kids involved and have a wrapping party in the library, date as yet not determined.



Please call the library at 303-536-4550 with any questions.

And Finally, A Few Brief Notes

- The Beech Street water leak on October 9th did not result in disruption of service. The pavement repairs will be completed over the next couple of weeks.
- The Town has reached an agreement for land that is needed to install a storm sewer to drain the ditch north of 3rd and Dahlia.
- We have been working with CDOT’s engineers to see if they will do the work necessary to improve drainage in their ditch along Grape Street, north of Main. The ditch needs to be properly graded and the weeds maintained. It is up to CDOT to take care of their property.
- This year’s fall cleanup event was successful, but not very busy. We plan to continue to do both spring and fall cleanup days, but might scale back the hours for the fall event.
- At the October 20th meeting, the Board will be discussing the ordinance that limits parking of trailers and campers on Town streets.
- The time change on November 7th is a good time to change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors..

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

- *Hudson Angels toy drive*
- *2010 Citizen Survey results*
- *Yard of the Month winners*
- *Library news*
- *2011 Budget in preparation*
- *Land Development Code revised*

**REMEMBER... Town Board meetings
are open to the public. Agendas are posted
in the Town Hall window and at the Post
Office.**



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