

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.



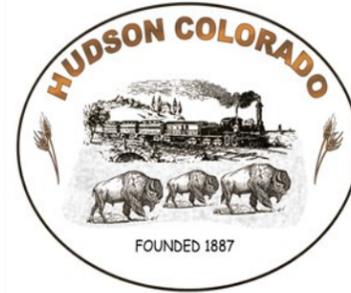
Visit the Town's web site for more up-to-date news about what's going on:
www.hudsoncolorado.org

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The HUDSON CONNECTION

The Town of Hudson Newsletter

Volume No. 69

September-October 2013



HUDSON HELPS

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**CLEAN-UP
SEPT. 26-27**
(see page 6)

**KIDS' FISHING
DERBY AT THE
POND
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12th**
(see page 6)

**99 YEARS AND
COUNTING**
TOWN OF
HUDSON
INCORPORATED
JANUARY 21, 1914

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED
The Hudson community is rallying to lend a hand to our neighbors in flood ravaged areas of Weld County. The Town, in partnership with the Hudson Fire Protection District, has launched the "Hudson Helps" fundraising cam-



aign. Boots like this one are displayed in local businesses. As of September 25th the effort has raised \$1,988! The drive will continue until Sept. 30th. PLEASE be generous in your donations during this difficult time. Checks should be made payable to: "Community Foundation of Weld County (Memo: flood relief)". The Town is

FALL CLEAN-UP SEPT. 27-28

The fall "Clean-up Days" event has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 27th & 28th. HUDSON RESIDENTS are welcome to bring branches, old furniture, and other debris (NOT common household trash) to the event. Hours are:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sat.

The Town will provide dumpsters and will accept tires and recyclables. It will be held on the south side of town in Hudson Hills.

There is one change for this event. **We will be unable to accept televisions and computers.**

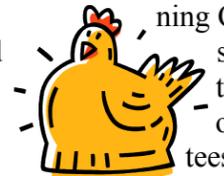
Call Town Hall if you have questions.

also teaming with Keenesburg and Lochbuie in collecting food for the Weld Food Bank. Appropriate **non-perishable** food items may be left at any of the three Town Halls.

Thank you!

TOWN BOARD APPROVES BACKYARD CHICKEN ORDINANCE

At its meeting of September 18th and after public hearings by both the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees, the Board approved Ordinance No. 13-



10, allowing for people in the R-1 zoning district to keep backyard hen chickens. Chickens, already allowed in the Town's agricultural districts without permits, can now be kept on R-1 properties with issuance of a permit and compliance with certain standards, including:

- No more than six chickens per lot.
- No roosters.
- Coops must be well-maintained and resistant to predators.
- Coops must be in rear yards, at least 5' from

See **CHICKENS**, p. 7

TOWN BOARD RECOGNIZES THE PEPPER POD ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Every hundred years or so the Pepper Pod Restaurant celebrates its centennial. 2013 happens to be one such anniversary of the founding of the restaurant in Hudson in 1913.

It's not unusual to talk to people from around Colorado who are not familiar with "Hudson." But its unusual to come across anyone who has not heard of or been to the "Pod."

On September 4th the Board of Trustees presented the owners of the Pod with a plaque commemorating its first one hundred years in Hudson. Congratulations to Beth and Dave Martin, Chef Amy, and all of the crew at the Pod!



Amy Regalado, Rachel Martin, Vivian Regalado, Beth Martin, and Dave Martin receive a plaque from Mayor Pontius

COME OUT TO SUPPORT WELD COUNTY FLOOD VICTIMS

The Towns of Lochbuie, Hudson, Keenesburg are holding a fund and food drive!

SATURDAY October 5th 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

Hudson Fire District and Southeast Weld Fire District

will host a "Boot Drive" WITH 100% of donations benefiting Weld County United Way Flood Relief Fund

All three Towns will be collecting NON-PARISHABLE FOODS benefiting WELD COUNTY FOOD BANK Flood Relief Victims



Boot Drive Food Drive Drop Off

Lochbuie Elementary School

201 Bonanza Blvd.

Please contact Candy Veldhuizen if you can volunteer in Lochbuie at;

303-659-4514 or 720-272-5515

Email: cveldhuizen@lochbuie.org



Boot Drive Food Drive Drop Off

Hudson Town Hall

557 Ash Street

Please contact Dan Hamsmith if you can volunteer in Hudson at;

303-536-9311 or Email:

dhamsmith@hudsoncolorado.org



Boot Drive Food Drive Drop Off

Re-3j Administration Building

99 W. Broadway Street

Please contact Cindy Baumgartner if you can volunteer in Keenesburg at; 303-732-0630 or 970-381-1665

Email: trusteeecindy@gmail.com

TOP 10 ITEMS FOR FOOD DRIVE

Canned Meat or Tuna ~ Canned Soup or Stews ~ Pasta or Mac & Cheese ~ Cereal ~ Rice ~ Canned Fruit ~

Canned Vegetables ~ Peanut Butter ~ Fruit Juice ~ Beans

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE PETS!

We will accept dry and canned dogs and cats food

Weld Food Bank

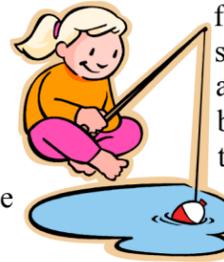


PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT THIS EFFORT TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS!

FISHING DERBY OCTOBER 12th

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be helping the Town with a kids' fishing derby at the pond. The event, rescheduled to October 12th from the original September 7th date, will take place from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Be sure to bring your own fishing tackle. Prizes and light refreshments will be provided.

The pond is stocked with trout and bass. Hopefully they will be hungry for the event.



TOWN RECEIVES GRANT FOR FISHING POND IMPROVEMENTS

Colorado Parks & Wildlife has informed the Town of a \$47,500 matching grant from the Fishing is Fun program to help with construction of improvements at the fishing pond. The funds will help with construction of a fishing pier and for stabilization of the bank along the water line to reduce erosion. Work on the project is planned for early 2014.



The pond is stocked with trout and bass. Hopefully they will be hungry for the event.

TOWN WORKING ON 2014 BUDGET

The Board of Trustees will receive a draft 2014 budget at its October 2nd meeting. But this will only be a working draft, not a final product. The final budget must be approved by early December.

The budget is an annual financial plan for the Town that is required by law to manage the Town's finances and to allocate public resources.

Items being considered in the budget include:

- A new playground at the Memorial Park
- A fishing pier and bank stabilization at the pond.
- New fence and site improvements at the water treatment plant.
- Various water and wastewater system maintenance items.
- Terms of the next year's contract for service with the Sheriff.
- The new maintenance shop and demolition of the old shop.
- No major changes in staffing are anticipated.
- Additional entryway and beautification projects.
- Carry over of the proposed frontage road realignment by Loves.
- The Town's 2014 Centennial Celebration activities.

Let us know anything else you would like to see the Town take on next year.

CHICKENS, cont. from p.1

property lines, and not more than 120 square feet in size.

- Chickens are allowed only in rear yards.
- Chickens must be protected from predators and kept inside coops at night.
- Coops have height and setback requirements.

The ordinance will be effective and permits will be available at Town Hall, beginning on November 1st.

The ordinance also clarified existing standards for livestock in the agricultural districts, including chickens, currently Eastridge and Sunrise.

This is something new for Hudson, and it follows a trend in many other communities around Colorado. If folks who have chickens properly obtain permits and take care of the animals and the coops and pens, it should be a very positive thing for the community. In addition to providing fresh eggs, the chickens will be another opportunity for kids in town to learn about caring for animals and to participate in programs such as 4H.

Please contact Town Hall if you have questions or if you would like to obtain a permit.

\$20 QUIZ!

Complete this quiz correctly and return it to Town Hall. The first FIVE correct entries received during regular hours 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 household.)

1. What is the size of the grant that the Town received for the fishing pond? _____
2. How many backyard chickens does the new ordinance permit in the R-1 district? _____
3. How many households responded to this year's Citizen Survey? _____
4. Name one thing that the Town DOES NOT accept in the Clean-up program. _____
5. Where will the new Town maintenance shop be located? _____

AND....

6. Name the THREE movies shown this Year in the Movie in the Park series. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

We'll see how this works out. If it goes well we'll offer the \$20 QUIZ in future issues....

THANKS AGAIN...

To our "Movie in the Park" sponsors:

Valley Bank & Trust
Visiting Angels of Brighton
Anadarko Petroleum



And to businesses displaying the flood relief BOOTS...

Farm & Home Lumber Carniceria La Mexicana
Andersen's Star Market QDE Hot Rod Parts
Buscado's Salon Loves Travel Center
El Faro Carl's Jr.
Valley Bank & Trust Pepper Pod Restaurant
Hudson Locker Hudson Barber Shop
Hudson Library End of the Trail

IT'S DUMPSTER TIME AGAIN!!

Fall Clean-Up Scheduled for

Sept. 27th 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sept. 28th 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hudson Hills, South on Beech St.

Hudson residents
with proof of residency

- Household hazardous waste
- Appliances
- Tires (\$2 for passenger car & light truck tires, \$5 for tires with rims)
- **NO** computers, monitors, TV's, keyboards
- **NO** concrete, shingles, recycled asphalt, large truck or tractor tires

Call Town Hall if you have questions.



WARDEN DRIVER HONORED FOR HIS CIVIC SPIRIT

Geo Corporation's Hudson Correctional Facility and Warden Joe Driver, have been staunch supporters of the town since 2010. Recently, inmates at the prison built 21 planters that are now helping to brighten downtown Hudson. On August 21st, in recognition of the



contributions of the facility, and the Warden's initiatives in working with the Town, the Board of Trustees presented the Warden with a plaque.

Thanks Warden Driver!

- Watering the park does not raise water bills for customers.
- There are bass in the pond along with the trout.
- Playground improvements are planned for 2014.

Town staff is always ready to address your concerns.

Complete survey results, including written answers, are available on the Town's website: www.hudsoncolorado.org

Thanks again to everyone who took the time to complete and return a survey. We can't do our job unless we hear from you how we're doing. We will try to keep up with what we're doing well, and do better for you in areas where we need improvement.

DEA ANNOUNCES NEXT DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is holding its *seventh* National Medication Take-Back Day on October 26, 2013 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The previous six events collected a total of 1,409 tons of unused medications nationwide, including **43 tons** in Colorado, keeping them from potential misuse and directing

them to proper disposal. These events are currently one of only a very few options available for the take-back of narcotics and other prescribed controlled substances.

For more information, and a frequently updated list of locations (available beginning around October 1st), visit www.dea.gov.



SURVEY, cont. from p.3

2013 CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

Every year, as part of the budget process, the Town sends a survey to every household in Hudson, asking for ideas on projects, satisfaction with the performance of town departments, and general opinions on current affairs. And again this year, citizens responding to the survey weren't shy about letting us know what they thought!

89 households responded out of about 450 distributed. The survey included both "multiple choice" questions, and questions that ask for written answers. Some of the questions are asked every year in order to see trends over time. Here are some highlights from the results:

- The most significant change in satisfaction with services was a higher rating for parks, likely due to completion of the fishing pond and the veterans memorial. (People still see a need for improved playgrounds for young kids.)
- On a range of 1 to 10, people rated Hudson "6.8," down slightly from last year. However,

nearly half of the responses indicated that quality of life was getting better, as opposed to 9% thinking it was getting worse.

Traffic and street improvements, and water system upgrades were the highest priorities for public improvements. Law enforcement, business development and sewer system upgrades were close behind.

- People responding to the survey tended to be longer term residents, with surveys coming from people who averaged 15 years as town residents.
- The library again rated the highest level of satisfaction, with strong satisfaction with library hours and the idea of self-check out for library materials.
- A question regarding a proposed property tax increase for additional full-time firefighters was close, with 51% indicating that they would support the idea.
- The question about suggested projects and programs brought a wide range of responses, with traffic, recreation and law enforcement ideas being most prominent.
- People responded well



to the town's beautification efforts this year.

- This was a very bad year for weeds, and the surveys show that. Both public and private properties need to be kept clear of weeds.

Some of the surveys expressed dissatisfaction with certain town services, but were not specific enough about the exact problem. We can't fix a problem unless we know what it is...that's where you come in. Please feel free to stop by or call to discuss any problem you may have with how we do our job. (Occasional compliments are OK, too.)

Something we need to do better is to explain what we do at the town and how we allocate public resources. We all experience streets, water and sewer services, etc. on a daily basis. But the details about how those facilities are operated and maintained, and how they are paid for are not always obvious.

The surveys revealed some issues needing clarification:

- Town utility bills can be paid on-line through the Town's website. You can also pay for building permits, business licenses, etc. on the site.



New businesses coming to town will not raise sewer bills. In fact, a larger customer base will help keep bills low by spreading fixed costs of the utility over a larger customer base.

Like most every city in snow country, the town provides snow plowing, not "snow removal." When a plow clears a driving lane on a street the plowed snow has to go somewhere, and that means it gets pushed to the side. It is important that vehicles not be parked on the street when there are significant snow storms.

Any decisions regarding stop lights and other traffic control and maintenance on Highway 52 are made by the Colorado Dept. of Transportation (CDOT). Installation of stop lights must meet strict engineering standards. When the frontage road realignment project is completed the need for a signal will be re-evaluated.

The length of train delays is a continuing sore point with many folks. Often the problem is due to a train parking on the second track while waiting for another train going the opposite direction.

CONGRATULATIONS to the August - September Yard of the Month Winners!



165 Elm St.



221 Birch St.



458 Ash St.



455 Holly St.



530 Ash St.



705 Birch St.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

HUDSON PROUD!

...and **THANKS** to this year's great sponsors!

- Farm & Home Lumber** - **Andersen's Star Market**
- United Power** - **Hudson Public Library** - **Valley Bank & Trust**
- Pepper Pod Campground** - **Village Gift Company** - **Oh Nuts**

LIBRARY NEWS

Fire Prevention Week is October 6th thru October 12th. Come learn about fire safety at the Hudson Library. On **October 10th** at 10:15 we'll feature fireman Cassen Zebroski. Among other things he'll teach us how to "Stop, Drop & Roll". This event is free and open to children age two to eleven.

Don't miss the Open House **October 29th** at the Library. We're interested in your opinion as we start to plan a new Library/Town Hall campus. We want to know what our community has to say about our building plans. The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

North Colorado Health Alliance will be present every **Wednesday in October** from 3:00 pm. to 7:00 p.m. to help persons interested in the Health Care Insurance Plan. They will be available to guide you through the Health plans that are available. Check out the website at <http://www.northcoloradohealthalliance.org> for more information.

"If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need"
Marcus Tullius Cicero

Hudson Library hours: 10-6 M, T, Th, Fr, 10-7 Wed, Sat 9-2 Sun closed
555 Main St.
303-536-4550

NEWS FROM RE3J

Community Focus Groups Scheduled

The Board of Education and District Administration are interested in more fully engaging the community in our efforts to improve Weld Re-3J. As part of the Superintendent's entry plan for 2013-2014, the Board of Education will work with Dr. Rabenhorst to redevelop the district's mission statement and set new overarching goals for the district. This process will be part of the District Strategic Plan which is due for updating in 2014.

In order to get community input regarding District strengths and opportunities for improvement, the Board of Education will be hosting three Community Focus Groups this fall. The focus groups will occur at each of the district's three primary communities, but each will be open to any community member. The focus groups will occur prior to the regular Board of Education meetings in October, November, and December.

October 23rd 6:00 p.m.

Lochbuie Elementary

Nov. 13th 6:00 p.m.

Hoff Elementary

Dec. 11th 6:00 p.m.

Hudson Elementary

November Election

District voters will have the opportunity to vote for Board of Education members on November 5. Four

of the five seats are up for election. Petitions have been filed, and five candidates will be placed on the ballot. Incumbent Candace Veldhuizen is running for Director District A, incumbent Fred Jenson is running for Director District B, candidates Cindy Baumgartner and James A. Robertson, Jr. are running for the seat in Director District C, and incumbent Bryan Haffner is running for a two year term for Director District D. Voters will select one candidate from each of the Director Districts.



In addition to the election for school board members, Re-3J voters, along with other voters across Colorado, will consider a

ballot issue regarding school funding. The ballot issue, called Amendment 66, would change the structure of school funding. The district hopes to put out a factual summary to the public regarding this ballot issue in the next couple of months. The Weld Re-3J Board of Education adopted a resolution at the August 28, 2013 regular meeting in support of Amendment 66 as it would result in greater funding for the Weld Re-3J schools. Those who oppose Amendment 66 may generally do so on the basis of opposition to tax increases or disagreements with education reform efforts.

News from Town Hall...



- The Town has purchased property near 5th Avenue and Grape Street for a new maintenance facility. Construction of a new shop building and demolition of the old one at 5th and Cherry is planned for early 2014.
- New weight limit signs for south Beech Street and other locations will be posted shortly to implement the new weight limit ordinance.
- Coming Events include: the kids fishing derby on October 12th; Veterans Day flag retirement and ceremony; and the Town Hall Christmas lighting and Santa, Dec. 6th.

TOWN HALL-LIBRARY DESIGN OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

The Town and the Library have begun a process of working with an architect to prepare concept plans for a town hall, library and park complex proposed for a six acre site on South Beech Street. The public is invited to view concepts and to share ideas for the project at an open house:

Hudson Public Library
October 29th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.