

COLUMBINEVALLEYVOICE

WINTER 2020



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From the Mayor:

2020 is nearly done and the end of COVID is in sight! Thankfully, even with a slight decline in sales tax and other revenue sources, our Town budget didn't suffer as much as we predicted. Our proactive budget cuts in March were more than enough to offset the declines experienced. Revenues were also buoyed by robust building and remodel activity throughout the Town, especially at Wild Plum. We've been careful to recognize that a lot of this is "one-time" revenue. Knowing that there are some big road costs looming in the medium to long-term future, the Trustee Board plans to sweep \$500,000 or more into our capital reserve account at the end of the year. We have also instituted a new 1% transportation fee that will be collected beginning in 2020 for new building permits for projects over \$25,000 that will go directly to a transportation fund.

We have just under 10 lane-miles of roads in the Town ... and some will need to be completely rebuilt in the not too distant future. We are commissioning a detailed study next year to assess the size and timing of the roads challenge, but to give you an idea, look at the long, straight-stretch of Fairway Lane (adjacent to Wild Plum) that was rebuilt last year. About a ¼ mile of road for a cost of about \$1 million. When you consider that our annual budget spend on roads is about \$100 – 150 thousand per year, you understand why we need to build reserves.

Speaking of Wild Plum, if you haven't walked or driven through lately you should. The trails, open-space and views to the lake are impressive. Lennar tells us that they hope to start construction on two homes/month in 2021. There are about eight homes built or under construction now (out of a total of 84), and this does not include the 11 custom home lots along Fairway Lane. Six of those homes are under construction. We have also heard that Lennar is in discussions with another builder to sell 30 of the lots along Damshire Lane, where they would build several of the existing/approved designs not under construction now. Bottom line ... there is a lot of construction activity and truck traffic in our neighborhoods. Our Town staff and police are doing their best to monitor this traffic and make sure it conforms to the Construction Management Plan in place.

MAYOR & BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Roy Palmer, Mayor
(Term Expires April 2022)

Bruce Menk, Mayor Pro Tem
Trustee (Public Safety)
(Term Expires April 2022)

Kathy Boyle,
Trustee (Planning)
(Term Expires April 2022)

Bill Dotson,
Trustee (Finance)
(Term Expires April 2022)

Ed Icenogle,
Trustee (Building)
(Term Expires April 2022)

Mike Giesen,
Trustee (Community Affairs)
(Term Expires April 2022)

Jim Tarpey,
Trustee (Public Works)
(Term Expires April 2024)

Mail Correspondence To:
2 Middlefield Road
Columbine Valley, CO 80123

Or Email To:

BoardofTrustees @columbinevalley.org

WILD PLUM UPDATES

- So far 15 home permits have been issued by the Town. This includes 7 Lennar homes on the interior of the site and 8 permits issued to other builders for the custom lots along Fairway Lane.
- Epic Homes has plans to build 6 of the approved elevations on 30 lots within the Wild Plum development. They expect to start construction in January.
- Please remember that Wild Plum is an active construction zone and the site, including streets and paths are still private property.
- DO NOT drive carts on the gravel paths. These are for walking, jogging and biking only. Golf carts will damage this community amenity.



PHIL SIEBER, Town Planner

On October 1, longtime Town Planner for Columbine Valley, Phil Sieber, died of lung cancer and COPD. He was 85.

Phil was born Aug. 29, 1935, in Moab, Utah, and grew up in Monticello, Utah. After graduation from Monticello High School, he served in the Air Force. He then earned a bachelor's degree in political science and anthropology at the University of Utah.

He helped guide planning and development efforts in Portland, ME, and Mankato, MN, and earned a master degree from the University of Minnesota before coming to Colorado in 1980 where he was Arapahoe County planning director for 13 years. Upon leaving the County, Phil ran a successful consulting business and served as Columbine Valley's planning director, from 1997 to 2007 and again from 2012 until his death. Phil also was twice elected president of the National Association of County Planners.

Phil's legacy will be felt in Columbine Valley for many years, and he will be missed by those who had the privilege of working with him. A celebration of Phil's life will be held at a later date.

1.

Town Budget Adopted

Last week, the Board of Trustees completed five month process and adopted the 2021 Annual Operating and Capital Budgets. At each of their regularly scheduled meetings, the staff presented the Trustees with draft budgets and the Board discussed the individual expenditures. This process culminated with a public hearing on Nov. 17.

The primary purpose of the Town's budget and budgetary process is to develop, adopt and implement a financially sound and sustainable plan to accomplish the established goals of the upcoming year, while remaining consistent with the long-term vision of the community. Development of the budget focused on maintaining the existing levels of service, preserving the quality of our infrastructure, and ensuring the financial health of the organization both now and into the future.

The Town receives revenue from several sources. Taxes and assessments represent the largest category. Other sources include intergovernmental revenues which are collected for services provided by Columbine Valley to other governments, as well as federal, state and county grants, fees associated with building licenses and permits, punitive fines for the commission of minor crimes, and lastly other miscellaneous revenues. For 2021, the above sources are expected to generate nearly \$3.7 million.

The Town's budget is composed of an operating budget, which details expenditures for the upcoming year, and a capital budget, which is utilized for improvements to the Town's infrastructure and other capital assets including facilities and equipment. Several revenue streams are restricted for specific purposes, these include the Conservation trust fund, Arapahoe County open space fund, and the Town's newly established Transportation Fund.

For more information, please visit the Town's website, where the full budget is posted, or call the Columbine Valley Town Hall at 303-795-1434.

Thank You, from the Board of Trustees

To everyone who works for or volunteers to the Town or Homeowners Association, thank you so much for your contribution to the Town of Columbine Valley; The Board of Trustees are very grateful for your commitment and energy to keeping our town an outstanding place to live.

Happy holidays, and we wish you a wonderful new year!

From the Mayor, continued

Finally, I'm frequently asked questions about the size of our Town. We really won't know until the 2020 census numbers come back in 2021 ... and of course by then there will be families moving in to Wild Plum and the numbers will be low. For now, the Census Bureau estimated in 2018 that there were 1,221 residents. I think that number is low and doesn't account for the influx of families with children we've seen in the last several years nor perhaps residents of Willowcroft or Wilder Lane. I tell people there are about 1,350 residents of Columbine Valley.

Composting

In developing the Town's annual budget for 2021, one idea considered was town wide composting. In addition to trash and recycle collection, the Town would provide collection or drop-off opportunities for compostable materials including kitchen scraps and yard waste. After research and discussion, it was determined that such a service was not feasible at this time, however there are companies that offer this service to individuals. The Town is always interested to hear from its citizens about how live in Columbine Valley might be improved; if you have thoughts about composting or other programs or services, don't hesitate to share them with Town staff or your elected officials.

DATES TO KNOW

- **Dec 25:** Town Hall Closed—Merry Christmas!
 - **Jan 1:** Town Hall Closed—Happy New Years!
 - **Jan 19:** Board of Trustees Meeting; 6:30 p.m. *
 - **Jan 20:** Town Hall Closed—MLK Jr. Day
 - **Feb 9:** P & Z Commission Meeting; 6:30 p.m. *
 - **Feb 15:** Town Hall Closed—Presidents Day
 - **Feb 16:** Board of Trustees Meeting; 6:30 p.m. *
- * Town meetings are currently being held virtually with all opportunities for public participation conducted in writing or online.
Please check the Town's web site for more information.*

TOWN STAFF

J.D. McCrumb
Town Administrator

Lee Schiller
Town Attorney

Bret Cottrell
Chief of Police

Angie Kelly
Finance Director

Dana Struthers
Support Services Manager

Brent Kaslon
Town Planner

Stephanie Thelen
Building Dept. Coordinator

Troy Carmann
Town Engineer

Hobbes Hayden
Public Works Manager

Joanna Czarnecka
Senior Construction Manager

Dinae Dreessen
Public Works



2021 Town Directories:

Town Directories will be mailed soon. When yours arrives, please check your name, address and phone number carefully and notify the Town if there are any corrections that need to be made. Corrections will be mailed in the Spring newsletter.

If you are a new resident and are not in the Directory, please email Dana Struthers at dstruthers@ColumbineValley.org with your name, address and phone number. Children and cell phones can also be listed at your choosing. Residents always have the option to NOT have their information published; however, the Town appreciates having the information so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency or other official use.

