

COLUMBINE VALLEY VOICE

WINTER 2023



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FROM THE MAYOR

When I leave the Mayor's office in April, I will have served the Town of Columbine Valley for eight years as either Mayor or a Trustee. Reflecting back, the Town has made a great many strides of which I and the other Trustees are proud. Consider just some of the changes in the last decade.

Finances: Columbine Valley now has a capital reserve account, which even after a \$3 million plus road improvement project in 2023–2024, will have a balance of approximately \$2.5 at the end of next year. We also predict a general fund reserve of around \$850,000.

Property Taxes: In the face of massive property tax increases next year, Columbine Valley plans to collect slightly less property taxes next year than this year. We are lowering our mill levy substantially to achieve this. Your taxes will still go up, because the Town collects only a small share, but we did our part.

Development: Wilder Lane, Willowcroft, and Wild Plum are significant developments that have been integrated into the Town relatively seamlessly and without major controversy.

IT Infrastructure: The IT has been upgraded substantially, including outside cybersecurity monitoring. Our Town Court is largely conducted online and all the

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MAYOR & BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Roy Palmer, Mayor
(Term Expires April 2024)

Bill Dotson, Mayor Pro Tem
Trustee (Public Safety)
(Term Expires April 2026)

Kathy Boyle
Trustee (Community Affairs)
(Term Expires April 2024)

Mike Giesen
Trustee (Finance)
(Term Expires April 2024)

Ed Icenogle
Trustee (Public Works)
(Term Expires April 2026)

Jim Tarpey
Trustee (Planning)
(Term Expires April 2024)

Al Timothy
Trustee (Building)
(Term Expires April 2026)

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

Or Email To:
BoardofTrustees@columbinevalley.org

MAYOR (continued)

Town's monthly Trustee meetings are now webcast with the ability for public participation. We also have completely overhauled and modernized our website, including interactive features for residents.

Accounting: We have hired a professional, outside accounting firm to manage and report on our finances. This is buttressed by an annual outside audit.

Police: While small, our Police department continues to be a tremendous asset to our Town. We have replaced our entire fleet of patrol cars, increased professional training, and purchased new radios, computers, and protective gear for our officers.

Crime Prevention: The installation of Flock cameras at all Columbine Valley entrances has been successful in not only preventing crime, but helping find the bad guys after a crime has happened.

Town Hall: After years of need, the Town Hall has received much-needed controlled maintenance, including a new HVAC system, generator, carpet, and paint along with concrete repair.

Public Works: We now have a full-time, professional Public Works department that handles much more, including now doing our own snow plowing, streetlight maintenance, and sign maintenance. We have a new snow-plow truck, public works vehicle, and a Gator ATV to plow sidewalks and parking lots.

Stormwater: The annual flooding on Middlefield/Club Lane should hopefully be a thing of the past, after major stormwater features were installed last year.

Community Events: We have expanded our community events such as the Summer Concerts, Fireworks (with Columbine Country Club), Fourth of July Parade, and Shred Events.

The Town has tackled many more small things to stay current and better serve our citizens, but suffice it to say I'm most pleased with what hasn't happened. To a large extent our community has avoided many of the issues Towns around us have experienced—homelessness, increased crime, civic lawsuits, public official infighting and recalls, corruption, and general chaos. I believe that is due almost entirely to our great staff and managers, including people like our Police Chief, Bret Cottrell; our Town Administrator, JD McCrumb; and our longtime Town Attorney, Lee Schiller.

The next time you see one of our staff or our Police Officers, please take a moment to say thanks for what they do. It makes Columbine Valley special!

2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

In April 2024, three seats on the Board of Trustees and the position of Mayor will be open. If you are interested in running for an office, make note of these important dates:

- **Jan. 2, 2024:** Nomination Petitions for Trustee and Mayor available at Town Hall
- **Jan. 22, 2024:** Completed Nomination Petitions must be filed at Town Hall by 4 p.m.
- **March 4, 2024:** Ballots will be mailed to each eligible Columbine Valley voter

- **April 2, 2024:** Ballots to be returned to Town Hall by 7 p.m.

Trustees serve a four-year term and the Mayor serves a two-year term. All positions are at-large; there are no districts in Columbine Valley.

For more information on requirements for running for Trustee or Mayor, job descriptions, and time commitments, please contact J.D. McCrumb at Town Hall at jdmccrumb@columbinevalley.org or 303-795-1434.

GET READY FOR SNOW!

The *Farmers' Almanac* predicts average snowfall this year but Town staff turns to the more reliable AccuWeather, which projects up to 10 inches more snow this year (up to 60 inches from the historical average of 49.4 inches). Read on for what to expect from the Town for snow and ice removal. For full details, visit ColumbineValley.org > Public Works > Snow Removal. ❄️

Snow Removal

The Town's goal is to provide snow removal services to all streets within 24 hours after snow stops falling. Snow-removal operations start when snow at Town Hall reaches ½-inch depth, prioritizing main roads and arterials to ensure emergency access. Depending on weather conditions and snow depth, any widening, ice removal, and clean-up operations may take place several days after a snowstorm.

Ice Melt Distribution

The Town distributes Ice Slicer, a naturally occurring salt from Southern Utah, as needed at major intersections, steep hills, and sharp curves. Ice Slicer is safe for pets and lawns, and it contains minerals and micro-nutrients that in small amounts will actually help vegetation grow better.

Tips for Residents

To ensure clear streets, keep the following in mind after snow and ice events.

Avoid the "Second Shovel"



- **Clearing Mailboxes:** Postal regulations require residents to clear snow from in front of mailboxes to allow for small mail delivery.
- **Clearing Driveways:** Please clear snow from the driveway onto lawns or other spaces not in the public right-of-way. To minimize snow deposited from the plows onto a driveway, clear the area adjacent to the driveway as noted in the diagram above.
- **Street Parking:** Try not to park on streets in need of snow removal or ice treatment.
- **Reporting to Town Hall:** To report a snow-related problem during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.),

Sign Up for the No Visit List Online

The Columbine Valley Municipal Code allows residents to sign up for the No Visit List, which prevents any solicitor, peddler, or hawker from visiting their homes. Solicitors who visit those homes are in violation of Town code. To sign up, visit ColumbineValley.org > Community > No Solicitation / No Visit List; find the link under Add Yourself to the No Visit List. You may also call Town Hall during normal business hours to add a residence to the No Visit List.



TOWN CALENDAR

- Dec. 4:** Municipal Court
- Dec. 12:** Board of Trustees Meeting
- Dec. 25:** Christmas Holiday, Town Hall Closed
- Jan. 1:** New Year's Day, Town Hall Closed
- Jan. 15:** MLK Jr. Day, Town Hall Closed
- Jan. 16:** Board of Trustees Meeting
- Jan. 18:** Municipal Court
- Feb. 15:** Municipal Court
- Feb. 19:** Presidents Day, Town Hall Closed
- Feb. 20:** Board of Trustees Meeting

TOWN STAFF

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| J.D. McCrumb
Town Administrator | Lee Schiller
Town Attorney |
| Bret Cottrell
Chief of Police | Diane Rodriguez
Finance Director |
| Dana Struthers
Support Services Manager | Brent Kaslon
Town Planner |
| Bonnie Zapata-Diaz
Building Dept. Coordinator | Jim Thelen
Chief Building Inspector |
| Hobbes Hayden
Public Works Manager | Troy Carmann
Town Engineer |
| Dinae Dreessen
Public Works Associate | Joanna Czarnecka
Sr. Construction Manager |
| Kelly Anton
Communications | |