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Town of Bennett
355 4th Street
Bennett, CO 80102

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To: Local Resident

Elections Information

ATTENTION: ALL REGISTERED ELECTORS
TOWN OF BENNETT, COLORADO RESIDENTS
Regular Municipal Election
Tuesday, April 1, 2014

The Town of Bennett will conduct **A POLLING PLACE ELECTION** to be held at the Bennett Community Center, 1100 W. Colfax Ave, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 to elect three (3) Trustees each for a 4-year term.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voters may register to vote at the Town Hall, 355 4th Street from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mondays through Thursdays. Registration forms may be downloaded from the Town's website, www.townofbennett.org. Fill out the form and drop it off at Town Hall. You may also register to vote at the Adams County Motor Vehicle Office located at the Town of Bennett Town Hall, 355 4th Street, Bennett, CO 80102 or online at www.sos.state.co.us.

ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

Absentee ballot applications must be submitted to receive a ballot to vote by mail. The absentee ballot application is available on the Town's website, www.townofbennett.org or at the Town Hall; Town Clerk's Office, 355 4th Street and must be submitted on or before Friday, March 28, 2014.



"Ensuring Quality of Life"

The Bennett Bulletin

March 2014

Here to help:

www.townofbennett.org
(303) 644-3249
Fax (303) 644-4125

Town Clerk / Ext. 1003

Public Works / After Hours Emergency / Ext. 1004

Town Hall Administration Office / Ext. 1002

Utility Billing / Ext. 1000

Municipal Court / Ext. 1001

Community Development / Ext. 1017

Economic Development / Ext. 1007

In this issue:

- New Town Administrator
- Roggen Farmer's Elevator Improvement
- Community Development
- Upcoming Community Events
- Minute With the Mayor
- The General Ledger
- Community Resources
- Public Works
- Election Information



Town Hours & Meeting Schedule

Hours:

Town Hall
355 4th St.

Administration
7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Monday – Thursday
Closed on Friday

Community Development
8:00 am – 5:00pm
Monday – Friday

Adams County Motor Vehicle
7:00 am – 5:00pm
Monday – Friday

Economic Development Office
Historic Charles Muegge House
401 S. First St.

8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Monday – Friday

I-70 Corridor
Chamber of Commerce
8:00 am – 5:00pm
Monday – Friday

Public Works Shop

365 Palmer Ave.
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Monday – Friday

Meeting Schedule

Work Study Session	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm
Town Board	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm
Planning & Zoning	3 rd Monday @ 7:00 pm
Municipal Court	4 th Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

All meetings are held at Town Hall, 355 4th Street, on the date and times stated, unless otherwise posted. The public is always welcomed and encouraged to attend.

For further information, please call (303)644-3249 Ext. 1003.

Observed Holidays

Town Hall will be closed Monday May 26, 2014 in Observance of Memorial Day.

Town Hall Services

Services offered at Town Hall include:
BUILDING PERMITS; ANIMAL LICENSES; MUNICIPAL COURT; UTILITY BILLING; AND ADAMS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Meet the New Town Administrator

Please welcome Trish Stiles as the new Town Administrator. She brings a vast knowledge of local government management including economic and community development, finance management, and strategic planning. Prior to becoming the Town Administrator, Ms.



Stiles worked as the Town Treasurer and Administrative Services Director for four years. Her accomplishments include raising over two million dollars for our local parks and trails improvements. She is a Colorado native but also served in executive management in both Florida and Illinois communities before coming back to Colorado. Ms. Stiles has a strong passion for the Town of Bennett and has shown her ability to reach across the aisle and forge partnerships. Ms. Stiles is excited to serve in this position and continue to see the Town responsibly grow in the future.



Ten years ago, under then-Mayor Karen Groissant, the Town of Bennett made the decision to begin participating in regional organizations in the Metro area. That policy continues today.

Why do that? Weren't we doing just fine on our own, without becoming involved in the Metro Area?

The short answer is no. We had few local businesses, meaning local jobs were not plentiful. We had limited revenues. As a result, we didn't have many sidewalks, our roads needed repair, our parks needed work, our Community Center badly needed upgrades, our water and wastewater systems did not meet state and federal standards and we didn't have a clear plan for the future of Bennett.

Mayor Groissant became an active member of the Denver Regional Council of Governments, known as DRCOG. When I succeeded Mayor Groissant, I continued to be involved with DRCOG, including serving as Chair in 2013, and, at the suggestion of the Mayors of Thornton and Brighton, also joined the Metro Mayors Caucus, where I am currently Co-Vice Chair. I served on the Executive Committee for the Adams County Economic Development organization (ACED). Mayor Pro Tem Charles Bayley became our representative to the ACED board and became active in the Colorado Municipal League (CML), serving as Vice-Chair in 2013-2014. We also began working closely with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and county officials in Adams and Arapahoe counties. We joined forces with Tri-County Health to upgrade our trail system and provide healthy alternatives for our residents.

So what does all this do for us? DRCOG and CDOT together put together the annual transportation program for the state. If we want any state or federal funds for transportation, we have to work through them. Tri-County Health and Adams and Arapahoe counties have grant money available for Open Space projects, projects that improve access to a healthy lifestyle, and planning projects. ACED helps us locate new businesses for the Town of Bennett that fit in with our rural lifestyle. CML represents us in the legislature and provides tools for us to use in our governance. Metro Mayors' Caucus provides a forum to share ideas and contacts necessary to tackle tough projects.

What have we accomplished as a result of our participation regionally?

- Addition of new businesses along SR 79 north of I-70 that have increased our revenue by 33% and added over 200 local jobs.
- Improvements to our water and wastewater systems funded by the new businesses.
- Improvements to our existing parks, with more to come.
- Addition of two new open space areas: the Bennett Regional Park at Antelope Hills and the Municipal Park with the Veterans' Memorial on SR 79.
- Planning for the development of the Bennett Regional Park and a smaller park in Antelope Hills.
- A robust trail system that connects most of Bennett north of I-70 and the beginning of a connection trail from Antelope Hills to the main part of town.
- Bike and pedestrian lanes on local streets.
- Significant improvements to our Community Center, which include heating, electrical, kitchen and outdoor improvements.
- Completion of two phases of the process to put in a separated grade crossing over the railroad. These were both funded through CDOT and DRCOG.
- A comprehensive plan for managing growth as it begins to occur in this area.
- Participation in the county sponsored land use plan for the entire I-70 eastern area.
- A long-range water/wastewater plan. We've also hired a water engineer to help us explore obtaining renewable water for the Town.
- A long-range Trail and Open Space plan.
- A long-range local road repair plan. We began repairing roads on a small scale two years ago and will continue to work a few streets at a time until all necessary repairs are completed.

When we began this process to work regionally to implement local improvements, we received about \$35,000 annually in grants for the Town of Bennett. Last year, we received over \$1 million in grant money. Grant money comes out of county and state taxes paid into things like county open space funds. It does not have to be paid back. This is money that we were always contributing but never getting any back! We have also built strong relationships with our partners to facilitate working together on future needs.

Although participating in all these organizations takes significant additional time on top of our local responsibilities, I think the results have been well worth it for the Town of Bennett. I hope you agree, and we are always interested in your feedback on our direction. If you like the things we are doing and have more suggestions, we want to know it. If you don't like the direction we are going and have suggestions for different approaches, we want to know it. Drop us a line, join us at a meeting or Open House, or join us for one of our celebration activities, such as Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, and Bennett Days. Most of all, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Thank you for your continued support!

- Sue Horn, Mayor

THE GENERAL LEDGER

A word from the Finance Department

We are pleased to announce the recent adoption of the 2014 Budget for the Town of Bennett Colorado. This budget represents our continued commitment to prudent fiscal management, and has proposed several innovations in the organization of government, thereby advancing our ongoing efforts to continuously improve the efficient and effective delivery of Town services.

The 2014 budget provides for projected fund balances that meet or exceed the long-range financial plan to position the Town in steady financial progress. The 2014 budget is balanced for **ALL** funds. In this case balanced means that Sources of Funds (Revenues and Fund Balance) is equal to or greater than Uses of Funds (Expenditures and Transfers).

Sources of Funds \$ 6,332,720

Uses of Funds \$ 6,223,055

Adoption of the annual budget is an important policy action of the Town Board each year. The document serves as a means to allocate resources to a variety of Town programs and priorities, and to protect the community's physical security, enhance the community's quality of life, and to maintain and develop the Town's facilities and infrastructure.

Revenue Summary Overall the 2014 budget revenues represent a 9% increase over the 2013 projected revenue. General Fund provides the primary source of revenue for the Town followed by the Water Fund. Proposed General Fund revenues for 2014 are projected for moderate growth at 4% respectively. Sales tax revenues in the General Fund are estimated to increase from 2013 projection by nearly 4.5%. Conservative attainable revenue estimates have been projected in all funds.

Expenditure Summary A major portion of expenditures for the Town is spent on Public Safety. This is the amount paid to Arapahoe County and Adams County for law enforcement services. The Sheriff's office for each county enforces the law within the respective area. The Town is primarily a service and maintenance business, these services include: Administration; Administrative Services (Finance; Budget, Accounting, Utility Billing; Human Resources; IT); Town Clerk; Municipal Court; Economic Development; Community Development (Code Enforcement, Animal Control, Planning); and Public Works (Water, Wastewater, Parks, Fleet, Street Maintenance, and Facilities). Now that the budget has been adopted, the staff will diligently work to meet our goals established for all Town departments and services for the coming year.

Major Improvement Projects in 2014:

Economic Development Department – The 2014 budget recognized a desire for heightened services of the Economic Development department. We have restructured the department to focus on not only the Town's future business growth, but also on reconnecting the education and involvement of our current business owners.

Grant Application and Water Meter Replacement Program – In 2014 the Town plans on applying for a DOLA energy impact assistance grant. This grant would fund Town meter replacement so that all residents would have a uniform meter and remote read capability, thus eliminating the manual meter reading.

Chapter 16 Revision – With a \$25,000 grant from DOLA the Town plans to rehabilitate the chapter 16 development codes for consistency, ease of use, and modernized development practices.

Bennett Regional Parks and Open Space - The development of Bennett Regional Park and Open Space is set to continue in 2014. The 200-acre former golf course situated in the Antelope Hills subdivision was acquired and recognized as an open space park in 2013. The proposal for a regional park featuring amenities such as an open space; an off leash dog park; an 18-hole disc golf course; natural park and play areas; and several miles of running and walking trails is set to move forward into 2014 and 2015. The regional park will also be connected via a trail along the Kiowa -Bennett Road to the Arapahoe County Kiowa Creek Open Space North Parcel.

Grant Applications - Grant applications will continue to be submitted for various projects in 2014. Grant funds enable the Town to provide far more facilities, services, parks, trails and other infrastructure development than sales and property tax revenue alone could support.

Conclusion Town staff looks forward to another busy year and is always seeking the public's awareness and participation in this challenging effort to meet the Town of Bennett's priorities. We continue to be confident that the Mayor and Trustee's vision will ensure an outstanding quality of life for the Bennett community and further enhance our history while balancing our future. The complete 2014 budget is located on our website at townofbennett.org. If you have any additional questions, comments or suggestions for the finance department, our door is always open.

Roggen Farmer's Elevator Association



Roggen Farmers' Elevator Association has expanded their operations through a partnership with the Town of Bennett. The goal was to have two additional grain silos available for storage of wheat and corn during the harvest season of 2013. As you may have noticed, that goal was achieved. The improvements were challenging because of the extensive industrial operations that were necessary for the upgrades that had to be completed in the core of downtown Bennett. However, despite the challenges, the Town recognized the vital role the agricultural operation of Roggen Farmers' Elevator has contributed towards the history and current commercial base of Bennett. Therefore, the Town also recognized the need for Roggen Elevator to improve their facilities by adding the new grain bins for a higher storage capacity. This improvement, along with the installation of a faster grain leg translated into higher productivity and less truck traffic and congestion on Bennett streets and in the yard area of Roggen Elevator. The added storage meant that trucks were no longer needed to haul wheat out as it was being brought in and the upgraded leg allowed for semis to be dumped in five minutes as opposed to fifteen.

The property is located strategically in the center of the historical commercial area of Bennett on Union Pacific property where train service has been vital since the Town incorporated. Since being built in 1954, Roggen Farmers' Elevator-Bennett Branch has been driven with the purpose of strengthening the economic well being of its members and the community in which it stands.

With the construction of the grain silos, the company worked with the Town of Bennett to make site improvements in order to positively affect the overall operations of the property. These improvements included designing and installing an engineered drainage system, incorporating large cement drainage pans to eliminate the ponding of water that had continuously mired the yard area in years past. With the new drainage system, a large portion of the site was surfaced with asphalt millings that were recycled from roadwork being done in the area. The millings were then covered in rock to help the yard, and center of Bennett, look more appealing. Additionally, the jersey barriers were removed and new landscaping and fencing took their place. The Town and Roggen Farmers' Elevator Association are both pleased with the outcome. The Roggen Elevator site is a great example of how the members of Roggen Farmers' Elevator Association and the Town of Bennett are working to improve the quality of life for its residents.

Community Development

Like any small town, we take pride in and are protective of our community. That's why our neighborhood standards are important. Communities of all sizes rely on civic pride and the duty of all citizens to help with picking up litter, animal awareness, reporting crime and neighborhood courtesy. As a growing town, standards are always changing so it is important that we keep you informed. We would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of some of our most commonly ignored ordinances.

Building Department:

Before starting any projects (i.e.: siding, replacement windows, reroof, accessory structures bigger than 200 sq. ft., etc.); make sure the necessary permits are obtained prior to the work starting. Beginning work without a permit doubles the fine of what a permit would cost initially.

Garbage and Vegetation:

As everyone knows, the wind blows most of the time in Bennett. Garbage and trash containers can only be left in front yards on the day the trash is picked-up, and then must be removed to the back yard or garage for storage.

Parking/storage:

Did you know that a recreational vehicle, a trailer or a boat parked in or next to your driveway, in the front of the front line of your house, is in violation of ordinance 16-9-230 (c)? Make sure it is screened to a height of 6 feet from public or private view (even if it is located in the back or side yard).

Animals:

Dogs and cats allowed to roam the neighborhood are in violation of the leash law. They must be kept on a leash or in your yard so they don't come up missing.

Upcoming Community Events

Bennett Regional Park and Open Space Volunteer Clean-up Event.....April 12
Community Clean-up Day.....May 17

Corridor of Honor Military Memorial Dedication at Civic Center Park & Bennett Cemetery Veteran's Memorial.....May 26
Farmer's and Artisan Market at Civic Center Park.....May 17, June 21, July 19

Community Resources

Anythink Libraries

Anythink invites everyone to READ THINK DO with its annual mySummer program. From May 31-July 31, customers can explore a myriad of summer programs, events, entertainment and experiences for all ages – everything from solar flare T-shirts to cheesemaking to woodburning. Become a mySummer member for free by registering at Anythink or online at anythinklibraries.org beginning May 31.



Join us this year's mySummer kick-off party at Anythink Bennett on Saturday, May 31, from 1-3 p.m.

Bennett Park and Recreation District

Healthways SilverSneakers® Fitness Programs

SilverSneakers® Classic (Formally Muscle Strength Range of Motion®)

Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activity and daily living skills. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a ball are offered for resistance, and a chair is used for seated and/or standing support.



Fee: Included with SilverSneaker Members
 \$6.00 non-SilverSneaker Members
 Days: Mon & Wed
 Time: 9:35am - 10:35am

Bennett Fire Protection District



Bennett Fire Protection District wishes to remind everyone that while temperatures are warming up and spring is coming, there are still weeks ahead where snow is possible. Please keep fire hydrants clear at least 3ft in all directions when snow conditions exist.

Private snow plowing contractors should use care to avoid piling snow up against fire hydrant locations. "Spring Forward" is a great opportunity to check the batteries in your smoke alarms in your homes and businesses to ensure they are changed at least once a year! We appreciate everyone's efforts to keep the community safe and look forward to a great upcoming spring and summer season!

SilverSneakers® Yoga

SilverSneakers Yoga will move your whole body through a complete series of seated and standing yoga poses. Chair support is offered to safely perform a variety of seated and standing postures designed to increase flexibility, balance and range of movement. Restorative breathing exercises and final relaxation will promote stress reduction and mental clarity.

Days: Tues & Thurs & Fri
 Times: 9:35am - 10:35am
 Fee: Included with SilverSneakers Membership
 Non-Member: \$6.00 per class/
 \$4.00 with Fitness punch card

Morgan Community College



Morgan Community College offers a wide variety of Summer college courses. Whether you are a current student or a student returning from a four year institution for the summer, MCC can help you! Summer registration is May 12, 13, and 14 from 8:00am to 6:00pm at the Bennett Center located at 280 Colfax Ave. Feel free to call Vickie or Nancy at the MCC Bennett Center for a list of courses or general information. [303.644.4034](tel:303.644.4034)

Morgan Community College will be registering students for Fall courses June 23, 24, 25, and 26 from 8:00am to 6:00pm at the Bennett Center.

Call and make an appointment for free advising by an experienced college advisor!

Public Works

Spring will be marked by the inspection and cleaning of our potable water storage tanks located at various locations throughout the Town. The smallest is actually the tank we see the most, it's the one 100 feet above Town Hall. For years people were able to see how much water was in the tank by looking at the level indicator on the side. Unfortunately, it has been damaged for some time. Once we get the inspection report back we'll know whether we can bring the water level gauge back into use. The largest tank is #6 located next to the Bennett Rec. District. Half of the tank is below ground while the other half is above. It may look small but in reality it is 10 times larger than the Town Hall tank and when filled to capacity it can hold 500,000 gallons of water. Public Works will send out notices to the residents to let everyone know when the inspections and cleanings will begin. Clean water for the people of Bennett, that's what it's all about.