

March 2016



March Blue River Mountain News



April Meetings

Planning & Zoning
Thursday, April 7th, 6:00 p.m.

Town Board of Trustees
Tuesday, April 19th, 6:00 p.m.

Thank you-From Mayor Lindsay Backas

Letter from Mayor Lindsay Backas read at the March 15, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting.

This is my last meeting serving as you Mayor for the past 10 years. It has been an honor and a privilege. There have been so many positive, forward achievements over the last 10 years and so many people to thank. I would like to begin with this sitting council. We were unified in a forward vision for Blue River. It was just about a year and a half ago, that we, the Trustees of Blue River were STAFF. Each one of us were responsible for some achievement. Although we all hold full-time jobs, we had another full-time job and that was running this Town. None of the Trustees had a single agenda. Everything that we have achieved has been with the vision of what was the best for most of the people in the Town.

I would like to remind everyone what those achievements were.

It was always a concern for the Trustees, because there was never enough money to do anything. At our first retreat, we contemplated dissolving the Town. Instead, we put our head together and one by one, we started the positive actions that have brought us to where we are today.

Money was always an issue in order to take care of the basic needs. So, we put forth a solution on the ballot for the people of the town to decide, the passage of the accommodation tax, then the sales tax and that started to give us some of the badly needed income. It passed!

We needed to have a Comprehensive Plan for the Town in order to have a path to follow and to get

recognized by the State in order to collect the sales tax and qualify for grants. We now have a Comprehensive Master Plan.

Our infrastructure is a mess. Roads cross private property, drainage is awful, roads are narrow and in need of repair. If you all remember, we used to have at least one house a year blow up from propane. We brought in Natural Gas and we haven't had a house blow up since. We have a lot of homes that were built on or before 1964, when the Town was incorporated. Some septic systems were literally Volkswagen buses. Some we don't know where the waste was going. The possible contamination to our wells was becoming more imminent. We brought in the Upper Blue Sanitation District and now follow their path for upgrading drainage and roads.

We constructed a new bridge over the Blue River into the Royal Subdivision. We realized that if the road was closed off during construction, no one could get in or out. So, before we could rebuild the bridge, we had to reconstruct the only access or egress off of Mountain View to Highway 9. We did so and named that road Theobald Way.

The Town doesn't own any useable property, except Town Hall, so the prospect of a park seemed to be something that was unattainable. Through the generosity of the Theobald Family, we did build a park. A grant was obtained and a road moved in the process to make it all happen.

We next set our sites on getting help to distribute information out to the public and organizing the office. Through a grant from the Department of Local Affairs, and an extensive interview process,

we hired a Town Administrator and now have a centralized modern system. We also hired a full time Marshal and as of January 1st our own Police Department.

We have remodeled Town Hall and will soon be expanding adding a garage to accommodate the two Town vehicles along with other equipment that will have to be purchased in the future.

We now have bus service. It will be up to the next Board to make sure it continues.

I know I couldn't possibly state everything that we have accomplished. I do not want to forget the past boards, Mayors and everyone who has contributed. Steven Humphrey and John Dunn have kept us on the straight and narrow and out of trouble, just to name a few of the people that have helped in taking Blue River into the future.

So as I pass this responsibility on to the new Mayor and Board members, please remember where we have been and what we have done. We celebrated 50 years and our motto is "The Next Fifty," we entrust this path to you for the betterment of the Town and for the people of the Town of Blue River.

Thank you,
Lindsay Backas
Mayor Town of Blue River
2007-2016

Thank you Kathy Neel, Town Clerk 2000-2016

At the March 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting Kathy Neel officially retired as the Blue River Town Clerk. Thank you Kathy for all your time, knowledge and dedication to the Town of Blue River over the last 16 years! Don't be a stranger!

***Thank you for your time, dedication
and service to the
Town of Blue River!***

**Lindsay Backas,
Board of Trustees 1999-2007
Mayor 2007-2016**

**Julie Jones
Board of Trustees 2008-2016**

**Larry Nelson
Past Board Member/Mayor 1980's
& 1990's
Board of Trustee 2008-2016**

**Rob Theobald
Board of Trustees 2008-2016**



2016 Defensible Space Project

Extra \$100.00 off your project from the Town of Blue River if you sign up by the May 1st 2016 deadline

We now offer stump grinding

Beetlekill Tree Guys (BKTG) is working on a 50/50 match grant through the Summit County Wildfire Council. Our focus is Defensible Space to help the Town of Blue River become a *firewise community*. It's mandatory by most homeowner insurance company's to create defensible space around your home so have it done by a professional, **licensed**, and **insured** company for less than half the price. BKTG has been serving Summit County since 2007 with local owner/operator, Zeb Mertes. RW&B Fire Department will give you a defensible space evaluation on your property for free. Since 2014 34 properties in Blue River took advantage of this program.

Defensible Space:

Defensible space is the required space between a structure and wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure. It protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential for structure survivability during wildland fire conditions.

What can Beetlekill Tree Guys do to help protect your home?

- Remove unhealthy vegetation. Trees and shrubs that are stressed, diseased, dead or dying should be removed so that they do not become a fuel source for potential fires.
- Create defensible space on flat ground 100 feet around a home.
- Thin out continuous tree cover around a structure. Remove flammable vegetation from within the initial 30 feet around structures.
- Beyond the initial 30 feet, thin trees to achieve a 10 to 12 foot crown spacing. Clumps of 3 to 4 trees are acceptable for a more natural appearance, if additional space surrounds them.
- Prune tree branches within the defensible space up to 10 feet above ground.
- Cut grasses and weeds within initial 30 feet of structures.

Treat noxious weeds around property

Beetlekill Tree Guys is committed to educating the community on how to help our forest become a healthier and safer place. For more information on the **2016 grant project**, defensible space, and the services we provide please call or visit our web site.

Free estimates

www.beetlekilltreeguys.com

970.485.3632

beetlekilltreeguys@yahoo.com



Blue River 2016 Municipal Elections



April 5th marks the Blue River Regular Municipal Election. This year, the election will be a mail-in ballot election. Ballots were mailed to all Blue River registered voters on March 14th. Ballots may be mailed back or dropped off during regular business hours (Tuesday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) to Blue River Town Hall. All ballots are due back by 7:00 p.m. April 5th.

This year voters will be electing a Mayor and three Board of Trustees. Below is the list of candidates. If you are not registered to vote, you may do so at the Summit County Clerk's Office at 208 Lincoln Ave, Breckenridge, or online at www.co.summit.co.us. More information on the Blue River Municipal Election and candidates may be found on the town website at www.colorado.gov/townofblueriver.

2016 Blue River Ballot

Mayor-4 year term

Mitchell Weiss

Board of Trustee (Choose 3)-4 year terms

- Christine Armitage
- Toby Babich
- Tyler Brook
- Joel Dixon
- Laurel Wehrman

Summit Stage Survey

Thanks to participation through the winter, the Summit Stage has agreed to continue service to Blue River through the summer. They would like your input. Whether you ride the Stage or not, take time to fill out this online survey and help keep and improve the bus service to Blue River.



<http://surveymonkey.com/r/SummitStage>

2016 Capital Improvement Plans

Starlit Lane Capital Improvement Project

- ◆ Raise roadway, cut ditches to improve drainage, realign intersection of Starlit Lane and Sherwood
- ◆ Design to be completed by March/April
- ◆ Construction - Summer of 2016

Cisterns

- ◆ Completion of previous Cistern Project, install one cistern along Highway 9 north of the Tarn.
- ◆ Seeding of cisterns installed last fall - Summer 2016
- ◆ Additional cisterns will be based on funding/grant opportunities
- ◆ Design additional cisterns in 2016 / Construction in 2017

Pennsylvania Creek Culverts

- ◆ Implement improvements to remedy maintenance issues caused by existing creek width.
- ◆ Construction by General Contractor in 2016

Lakeshore Loop Wall

- ◆ Finalize the scope and design to repair erosion
- ◆ Construction by General Contractor in 2016

Lakeshore Loop & Spruce Creek Road/Crown

Blue River's Leash Law



Pets are a very important part of our life here in Blue River. With that comes the responsibility of keeping both pets and people safe. The Town of Blue River does have a strict leash law in place. It is unlawful for pets to be off leash and not in physical control of the owner. The leash law was enacted for the safety of residents, visitors and other pets. Please be sure to keep all pets on a leash within the town.

The Town Marshal is patrolling the Town. Violators will receive a warning or a fine. If you find a pet out without a leash, we ask that you contact our Town Hall at 970-547-0545. We appreciate everyone's help in keeping our animals and neighbors safe.

Fine Schedule

1st Offense-\$50

2nd Offense-\$100

Subsequent Offense within 18 months-\$200



Drive Safety Barriers

- ◆ Design completed, requesting bids
- ◆ Construction by General Contractor in 2016

Road and Drainage Improvements

- ◆ Resurface roads with additional road base material, slope roads for proper drainage
- ◆ Includes all remaining town roads not completed in 2015
- ◆ Cut/clear ditches for proper drainage

Culvert Inventory

- ◆ Consulting Engineer and Road Manager will inventory and record condition of all town culverts
- ◆ Repair, cleaning, replacement by General Contractor

Town Road Paving Proposed

- ◆ Funds are expected to be available and have been budgeted for the next ten years to allow the start of paving of town roads. Since this will be an ongoing project, a prioritization plan is being developed.
- ◆ Key prioritization factors will include; usage/traffic, sewer installed, current road condition, drainage, LiDAR availability, right-of-way/easement determination, other factors.



Help Keep bus service to Blue River.

RIDE THE STAGE!

BLUE RIVER COMMUTER

BRECKENRIDGE to BLUE RIVER TIMETABLE

Sequence #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
AM	6:35	6:37	6:39	6:40	6:42	6:44	6:49
	8:05	8:07	8:09	8:10	8:12	8:16	8:19
PM	4:00	4:02	4:04	4:05	4:07	4:11	4:14
	6:10	6:12	6:14	6:15	6:17	6:21	6:24

BLUE RIVER to BRECKENRIDGE TIMETABLE

Sequence #	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1
AM	6:55	6:56	6:57	6:58	7:00	7:02	7:07	7:09
	8:25	8:26	8:27	8:28	8:30	8:32	8:37	8:39
PM	4:20	4:21	4:22	4:23	4:25	4:27	4:32	4:34
	6:30	6:31	6:32	6:33	6:35	6:37	6:42	6:44

Safety Suggestions for Blue River bus riders!

Please arrive at your bus stop a couple minutes early and wait as close to the bus stop sign as possible. **Rushing to a bus stop along a busy highway can be dangerous** (and you might miss the bus!)

Several bus stops require the bus to block an intersection while boarding riders. We hope to minimize the interruption of traffic, so **please be ready to board when the bus arrives**. This will shorten the time the bus blocks the intersection.

If you are a motorist who is blocked by a bus stopped at an intersection, please be patient and the bus will move out of the intersection as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please **DO NOT CROSS THE HIGHWAY** to board or exit the bus. Use the nearest bus stop **on your side of the highway**.

For example, if you are headed to Breck and your stop is at 97 Circle, please board the **southbound** bus there. Ride the bus to the Quandary turn-around where the bus reverses direction. It will then head **northbound** to Breck. It will only take a few more minutes, but it is much safer than trying to cross a busy highway!

Thanks for helping us maintain our excellent safety record!
We look forward to serving you on this new bus route.

The Summit Stage Bus Service has been a great success. Thank you to all who have ridden the bus and helped to keep it going. Please share bus information with friends, families and visitors in Blue River. If you own a rental home, please provide information on this great service.

Above is a map of the bus stops and times as well as a list of safety tips from Summit Stage. Schedules are available at Town Hall or may be downloaded at www.summitstage.com or on the Town website at www.colorado.gov/townofblueriver.

Thank you to Board of Trustee Larry Nelson; Bruce Camping, Jim Andrew, and Vivian Pershing with Summit Stage for all of their hard work to provide this great opportunity for Blue River.

PARKING!! Please note that there is limited parking along Whispering Pines Circle **ONLY**. This is parallel parking only and is limited in space, off of the main road. Parking is restricted to this area and there is no overnight parking available. Signs indicate area available.

There will be **NO parking** available at the remaining bus stops or on Town roads. There is also no parking available at Town Hall/Municipal Court.

Violators will be ticketed and/or towed.

Snow Removal



If you rent your home, please inform your renters and/or your property management company of the Town Code pertaining to snow removal. Snow accumulations will be monitored by two remote cameras established on the north, and south areas of town.

Periodically, it will be necessary to remove the snow pack on the roads. This will take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

If you utilize a snow plow contractor or you are a snow plow contractor conducting business within the Town of Blue River, they are required to obtain a Blue River Business License. **Business Licenses are \$50 and available at Town Hall.**

Parking on any streets or public ways within the Town is prohibited. Vehicles, trailers, equipment, etc., must be parked in designated off-street parking spaces. Any vehicle left parked on the road, is subject to ticketing and towing.

Please do your part to ensure that all snow equipment and emergency vehicles are able to access roads during this winter season.

Town Code Sec. 11-1-20; 11-1-30-Snow Removal

- * Every owner or occupant of any premises within the Town having a sidewalk on or adjacent to the premises shall have the duty to keep the sidewalk clean of snow & ice.
- * All snow & ice shall be removed within 24 hrs. of accumulation.
- * It is unlawful for any person in the Town to clear snow from a driveway in such a way that it in any way interferes with the normal use of or plowing of roads. All snow cleared from a driveway must be retained on the lot containing the driveway or transported to an authorized dumping area.
- * Any person who violates this section shall receive a summons and complaint requiring an appearance in Municipal Court.



Please inform your short-term renters, of the winter road conditions. Overnight parking is not allowed at Town Hall and violators will be ticketed and/or towed. Additionally, please assist the town in identifying your snow storage areas. This will assist plow drivers in identifying where you currently store snow on your property.

Blue River Building Permits



In the Town of Blue River, permits are needed for a variety of items. These include: building permits; staining and re-staining; sheds; landscaping; roofs; interior construction; electrical; and tree removal to name a few.

Applications are available at Town Hall and online. **BEFORE** doing any construction or improvements to your home and property check to make sure whether or not a permit is required. In many cases approval is also necessary from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Fees for permits vary based on work being performed.

In addition to permits, any contractor working on your property in the Town of Blue River is required to obtain a Business License. The fee is \$50/year.

Inspections must be scheduled by 4:00 p.m. the day before. Inspections called in on Fridays, will be scheduled for Monday. For questions about permits, to schedule an inspection and to obtain applications, stop by Town Hall or call 970-547-0545.

Permits Required for:

Staining

Sheds

New Construction

Additions/Remodel

Garages

Electrical

Plumbing

Tree Removal

Interior Remodeling

Excavation

Roofing

Siding

Fences

For a complete list, applications and fees, visit www.colorado.gov/townofblueriver.



Home Energy Assistance

The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments has home energy assistance programs for low-income residents. Assistance includes caulking/weather stripping; insulation; storm windows; furnace tune up; minor repairs; furnace replacement; refrigerator replacement. Assistance is free of charge and available to homeowners and renters with an agreement with the landlord. Income restrictions apply. If you receive LEAP, TANF, OAP, and SSI, SSDI or SNAP, you automatically qualify. The improvements will be made by the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments weatherization specialist, through federal and state grant monies. For more information call 1-800-332-3669.

Trash Code

As snow has fallen on the ground and new visitors come to our mountain community, it's important to remind everyone of the importance of Blue River's Trash policy. The bears may be on sabbatical for the winter but many other animals are busy keeping fed throughout the winter. All trash containers must be secured inside the home, garage, building or shed. A reminder that trash may not be put out until the day of trash pick up. After pick up, containers must be re-secured. Dogs, fox, coyote and birds do get into the trash and create a messy nuisance for the town. Please inform your property management companies, and renter of this important code. Citations will be issued to property owners for any violation of this town code.

Fine Schedule

1st Offense-\$50

2nd Offense-\$250

Subsequent Offense within 18 months-\$300



Cisterns 2016

Over the last two years, the Town of Blue River has been very active in the installation of cisterns throughout the town. Fire protection is a top priority in both Summit County and the Town of Blue River. In fall 2014, the Town of Blue River partnered with the Red, White and Blue Fire District to install four 2,600 gallon cisterns along Blue River Road. Cisterns assist the fire department in fire response where fire hydrants do not exist.



In 2015, the Town of Blue River applied for and was granted a grant in the amount of \$75,000 from the Department of Local Affairs. The Town of Blue River matched the funds with another \$75,000 to bring total to \$150,000 for the installation of cisterns in five locations throughout the Town. Four were installed in 2015 and a fifth will be installed in the spring of 2016. This is an ongoing project that the Town Board of Trustees are committed to funding each year. The Board of Trustees is looking to the residents in seeking land easements for placement of the cisterns. If you are interested in providing an easement, please contact Michelle Eddy, Town Administrator for more information 970-547-0545.