Town Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Town of Palisade has taken numerous steps to provide services to Palisade citizens while following health safety procedures now that Gov. Jared Polis has issued a stay-at-home order to all Coloradans through April 11th.

“The Board of Trustees and I know that we are all going through uncharted times. We want you all to know that the Town has been in contact with Mesa County Public Health daily and have been following all State and County suggestions on the ways to keep everyone healthy,” said Palisade Mayor Roger Granat.

The latest information on Colorado’s response to COVID-19 is available at Mesa County Public Health by calling (970) 248-6900 or going to https://health.mesacounty.us/covid19/.

“Things that each and every one of us can do in our daily lives are to keep our space distance, wash our hands, and above all, know that we will come out of this,” said Granat.

Contacting Town Hall: Utility Payments and Voting

As a government, the Town of Palisade’s services are essential and exempt from the governor’s ruling. However, the Town has taken numerous steps to ensure the health of its citizens. One of these steps is to close the Town Hall facility to limit public exposure to each other and Town staff.

However, staff members continue to work to respond to phone calls, utility billing, and other services. Residents can pay utility bills by phone with a credit card, or they can place them in the drop box next to the Town Hall entrance.

Ballots for the April 7th municipal election were mailed to all Palisade residents who live in the Town limits. Town residents who didn’t receive a mail-in ballot should call Town Clerk Keli Frasier at (970) 464-5602 or email her for a replacement ballot at kfrasier@townofpalisade.org. Citizens can mail their completed ballots by April 3rd (locally) or place them in the drop box by 7 p.m. on or before April 7th.

Citizens can also contact Town Hall for any Town requests or information by phone at (970) 464-5602 or by email at info@townofpalisade.org. They can also check the Town Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/PalisadeCo/ and the Town website at www.townofpalisade.org for regular updates.

Contacting Parks and Utilities

Maintaining water lines, streets, parks, and public utilities are all essential services, and Parks and Public Utilities employees are still working. To contact them, call Town Hall at (970) 464-5602.

Please note that the Town of Palisade does not handle irrigation water. Residents within Town limits should contact Palisade Irrigation Pipes and Laterals for information at (970) 234-2116. Outside the Town Limits, they should contact Palisade Irrigation District at (970) 464-4700.

Currently Town playgrounds, public courts, and the Skate Park are closed to discourage public gatherings in limited spaces and potential surface contamination. (continued on p. 2)
Town Responds to COVID-19 Health Crisis with Updated Services

(continued from p. 1)

While public restrooms are open, sanitized, and disinfected daily, residents should consider that they are still public facilities and protect themselves accordingly.

All activities scheduled in the Community Center and Gymnasium have been cancelled through April 18th. The Town will reevaluate future activities as the date becomes closer.

Contacting Palisade Police and Fire Departments

Palisade police officers continue to patrol Town streets, respond to crime scenes, and enforce local and state laws. However, the Palisade Police Department offices at Town Hall are closed to the public, and the direct phone number is not being staffed. To contact the police department for any nonemergency reason, call Dispatch at (970) 242-6707.

The Palisade Fire Department is fully staffed and ready to respond to emergencies. Public access is currently closed, however, including ride-alongs and tours. To contact firefighters on duty, call (970) 464-4745, ext. 1. For administrative issues, call the Fire Chief or Assistant Chief at (970) 464-4745, ext. 2 or 3.

In the case of an emergency for either police or fire, call 911.

Contacting the Planning Department

People who want to put up fences, install new roofs, remodel their houses, or pursue other household projects can still submit planning clearances through Town Hall. Clearances can be mailed or emailed to citizens by calling Town Hall at (970) 464-5602, and they can be paid for by phone with a credit card or by mail with a check or money order. Larger rezoning issues or planning development issues, including those involving short-term vacation rentals, can also be pursued by phone, email, or mail. Planning Technician Lydia Reynolds and Community Development Director Allyson Shellhorn can be contacted by email at lreymonds@townofpalisade.org or ashellhorn@townofpalisade.org, and citizens can also speak with them by phone by calling Town Hall at (970) 464-5602, where they will be connected to them.

Attending Municipal Court

Palisade Municipal Court dates that were scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th and April 8th have been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 19th. Also, court that was scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd, will now take place on Tuesday, April 21st. These dates are subject to change as COVID-19 responses change. Court Clerk Keli Frasier will notify attendees of changes.

Attending Public Meetings

On March 24th, the Town held the Board of Trustees meeting remotely, using a meeting program called Zoom. Six board members, seven staff members, and 14 community members participated.

Everyone who was interested in attending by computer had the option to go online, watch the proceedings, and participate. Those who didn’t have a computer or preferred to access the meeting by phone were able to call in, listen to the meeting, and make comments if they wished. Future meetings will use this format.

Accessing Meetings Remotely

To access Palisade public meetings remotely, citizens can call in by phone or use a computer with Internet access.

• The access phone number and a computer link to the meeting page will be listed on the Town’s website and Facebook page at least 24 hours before the meeting or by calling Town Hall at (970) 464-5602. Instructions will be displayed there for participation.

• An e-blast with instructions will be sent to everyone on the Town’s email list. To be placed on the email list, call Town Hall.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census Day</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill out your census info online, by phone, or by mail.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Day</td>
<td>April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall Ballot Box</td>
<td>Until 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>175 E. 3rd St., Next to Entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism Advisory</td>
<td>April 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remote Access</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td>April 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remote Access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>April 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remote Access</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td>April 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remote Access</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Town Cleanup Day</td>
<td>May 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverbend Park</td>
<td>8 a.m. to 12 p.m.</td>
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</table>
Vote for Mayor and Trustees April 7th

On Tuesday, April 7th, Palisade residents will vote on a new mayor and three trustee positions.

Palisade residents should have received their ballots in the mail already. They can mail their completed ballots or place them in the Palisade drop box by the Town Hall entrance at 175 E. 3rd St. by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7th. For more info, call Town Hall at (970) 464-5602.

Two candidates are running for mayor: David Edwards and Greg Mikolai. Also, eight candidates are running for three trustee positions: Heather Aspy, Bill Carlson, Thea Chase, Christopher Curry, Nicole Maxwell, Betsy McLaughlin, David Smith, and Ellen Turner.

Mesa County was unable to process election ballots for the Town of Palisade and the city of Fruita, so Palisade and Fruita governments are sharing election equipment to defray costs. All ballots will be counted by an electronic machine after voting closes at 7 p.m. on April 7th. Results will be posted on the Town website, on its Facebook page, and at Town Hall.

Roger Granat Leaves Town Board of Trustees After 19+ Years of Service

After serving for nearly 20 years on the Palisade Board of Trustees, Mayor Roger Granat is moving on to new pastures.

“It’s time we had some fresh eyes, some new thoughts,” he said. “Will I miss it? You bet!”

Granat has just become term-limited after serving 9½ consecutive years as Palisade mayor. In 2010, he took over the rest of the recalled mayor’s term and then served two additional 4-year terms as mayor.

This service came after Granat had already served as a Palisade Trustee, Mayor Pro Tem, and Mayor for a collective 9½ years before moving to Denver, marrying his wife Marie, and ultimately returning.

A Farmer’s Son

Born and raised in Palisade, Granat grew up as the son of a peach farmer. He tried to follow in his father’s footsteps with a 10-acre farm purchase only to experience the worse 5 years in Palisade’s farming history. His father made ends meet by working for the Town to bring the mountain springs into Palisade’s water system. Roger ended up selling his land and spending most of his career as a heavy equipment mechanic and operator, welder, and manager for concrete companies.

In Service of Palisade

When Granat became frustrated with the decisions made by the Board of Trustees, he spent a year going to all the Town board meetings.

(continued on p. 4)
Granat Completes Service to Palisade
(continued from p. 3)

Since Granat came to office, Palisade has gone through many changes.
“I’m proud of the fact that Palisade has survived a recession, maintaining some growth without losing its small-town feel,” he said.

Of top Town achievements, Granat names construction of the Fire Station on 7th Street. The Fire Department was overflowing at Town Hall, and Trustees had acquired the old high school building and annexed the building next door, which became the new fire station.

“When we opened the doors, we didn’t owe a dime to anyone, and that was unheard of,” he said.

Granat points to the Town’s installation of a new wastewater lift station with an innovative diffuser system. Currently, the Town is conducting a sewer study for a possible connection to the Clifton sewer system.

The Cameo Shooting and Education Complex was Granat’s brainchild 9 years ago and is now a full functioning facility.

He’s excited for upcoming projects, including the 33-mile Palisade Plunge mountain biking trail, which is currently under construction since the Town partnered with Mesa County to obtain a $1 million grant.

For years, the Town has wanted to improve safety on Highway 6. Granat looks forward to seeing the results of two recently awarded grants that will achieve this goal: one for $912,000 and another for $1 million.

Although unsure what the future holds, Granat says, “I look forward to seeing what the new mayor and council are going to do,” he says. “I’ll probably attend a few meetings.”

Dan Robinson Becomes Municipal Court Judge

Marna Lake has been the Palisade Municipal Court Judge for the past 25 years. With her decision to retire, the Palisade Trustees voted to appoint Dan Robinson at the March 10th Board meeting.

An attorney for 30 years, Robinson currently serves as the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Fruita as well as the substitute Judge for the City of Grand Junction. Robinson is fluent in Spanish and is committed to community service. He was elected to the Mesa County School Board for two terms from 2000 to 2008 and served as a Trustee at Colorado Mesa University for 8 years, from 2008 to 2016.

The Palisade Municipal Court will now run once a month every third Tuesday, beginning April 21st.

Local Happenings

Palisade Schools

Per Gov. Polis’ executive order, all Colorado schools have closed through April 17th in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. On March 29th, President Trump extended the federal social distancing guidelines until April 30th. School District 51 officials are reviewing how this announcement will affect the rest of the school year. For up-to-date information, go to https://www.d51schools.org/resources/covid19.

Restaurants: Support your local businesses!
The following local restaurants are providing takeout services:
• Diorios of Palisade, 309 W. 8th St., (970) 464-7966
• Palisade Brewing Co., 200 Peach Ave., (970) 464-1462
• Peach Street Distillers, 144 Kluge Ave., (970) 464-1128
• Peche, 336 Main St., (970) 464-4911
• Slice O Life Bakery, 105 W. 3rd St., (970) 464-0577
• 13 Brix Cider Bistro, 130 W. 3rd St., (970) 464-2073
• 357 Bar & Grill, 235 Main St., (970) 464-2226
• Wine Country Inn, Caroline’s, 777 Grande River Dr., (970) 464-5777

Bluegrass Festival and Farmers Market Still Happening

While the Town is paying close attention to health guidelines concerning the COVID-19 health crisis, it has not cancelled the 2020 Bluegrass and Roots Festival (June 12–14) or the Palisade Sunday Farmers Market (June 14–Sept. 20) at this point.

The Town is still seeking about 135 volunteers for the Bluegrass Festival. Each volunteer gets a free weekend pass to the festival in exchange for working two 4-hour shifts and can sign up at palisadevolunteers.ivolunteer.com.

The Farmers Market is accepting vendors. Call 464-5602 for info.