



# March 2018

## The Town of Red Cliff

### Election

We have an election coming up on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are still short one election judge. If you are interested, please contact the town office. Here is what you will see on your ballot.

We have four candidates running for three seats on the Board of Trustees. The candidates are as follows (in alphabetical order)

Scott Burgess, Duke Gerber, Tom Henderson & Jake Spears

We will be holding a “Meet the Candidates” event on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm on the second floor of Mango’s. Please take the opportunity to ask them questions about the issues that matter to you.

We will also have a ballot measure regarding the elimination of term limits. Many smaller communities have abolished term limits and the board believes that the choice of who represents you, and for how long, should be your choice as opposed to something set by law.

I believe it is important to be clear about what the elimination of term limits really means. Mayors and Trustees would still have to stand for election after each term. Passage of this measure does not mean someone who got elected could just stay as long as they like without you having a say in the matter. What this would do, however, is give the voters the opportunity to elect a candidate they feel is representing them well regardless of how many times they have been elected in the past.

Many smaller communities around the state have passed this measure. It is a great burden on towns with a small population to find sufficient candidates to run when the pool is so small. Having willing candidates who the people are happy with denied the chance to run because of arbitrary limits on their terms has been terribly frustrating over the years. It has resulted in vacant seats on the Board

and the filling of those seats by appointment instead of election by the people.

I am a believer in the people having a strong voice in their local government and I believe passing this ballot measure puts the power back in the hands of the people.

### Wildfire Mitigation Event

Red Cliff has been awarded a grant to hold a wildfire mitigation event. ERFPD will join with volunteers June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> to assist homeowners in mitigation efforts. We are currently identifying properties around town considered at most risk and will be contacting those owners to discuss mitigation plans. I am also reaching out for volunteers to assist with the work. Mitigation will consist of limbing-up evergreen trees, removing juniper bushes, clearing gutters and other slash. Safety equipment, snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Many owners in town have been struggling with the mitigation demands of homeowner insurance companies. We plan to document all the work performed for owners to submit to their insurance companies.

With a potentially terrible fire season ahead of us, anything we can do to create a defensible barrier around our community is welcome and I hope you will join in.

### Downtown Colorado

Red Cliff has been awarded a grant from Downtown Colorado Inc for our streetscape redesign project. You may remember the boards we had out at Community Unity Day looking for your feedback on the project. We will be meeting with representatives of Downtown Colorado this month to discuss our community and the overall vision for the project. They will then provide us with the necessary expertise to complete the planning process. Once our plan is completed, we will be able to apply for grants to implement it.

This process will take some time, but you will be hearing from the town at multiple stages. It is vital that we have your input throughout the project. Please make yourself and your thoughts available should you receive surveys or other requests for feedback.

In order to assist in this project effectively, I intend to travel to Montrose later this month for a day-long session on urban renewal. It is a good opportunity to discuss what other Western Slope communities have done, what worked, and what challenges needed overcoming.

## **Transit**

I would like to extend my thanks to Emmeline, Izzy & Harley. These three young members of our community attended a recent Board meeting where we discussed ECO Transit's development study. They were incredibly articulate and gave the ECO director and the consultant valuable information on what Red Cliff youth would like to see from transit development. They made a huge impression and have really helped to further the cause for consistent bus service to Red Cliff. Kudos to our future leaders!

ECO's study will include 4x daily service into Red Cliff as one of its "desirable improvements" recommendations. They are exploring partnerships with the school district as well as other methods in order to help finance such a service.

## **Health Care Costs**

The recent Mayor/Manager Meeting at Eagle County was a focus on high health insurance premiums and health care costs in our area. We discussed some actionable items that will be explored soon in a meeting with Lt. Gov. Donna Lynn. I am hopeful that we will find a way to increase transparency in the industry as well as bring down costs.

## **Priority Based Budgeting**

Barb and I recently attended a day-long class in Englewood, courtesy of a DOLA grant, regarding Priority Based Budgeting. We had previously implemented the first steps in this process by conducting an asset inventory and developing a capital improvement plan. We are now looking towards clarifying the Town's overall goals and analyzing how we are spending resources in the service of

those goals. The end of this process would mean a turn away from the line-item budgets we currently use and, instead, looking at the town's expenditures in a more goal-oriented manner. This could give us some opportunities to eliminate waste and ensure we are spending money and time in the most effective way possible.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am at the Town Park with a pot luck to follow in the Park. Anyone who would like to contribute a dish, please sign up with Addie at the Green Bridge Inn. I would also like to request any plastic eggs you may have brought to Town Hall to help shore up our stores.

## **Olympics**

You have likely heard the buzz about town regarding a possible bid from Denver for the 2026 or 2030 Olympics. I listened to the presentation from a representative of the bid committee and got the impression that there was considerable support for the idea locally. Denver has until April to determine whether to submit themselves for consideration so we will have to wait and see.

## **Condolences**

A few folks in town have recently lost their four-legged companions. I do not wish to publicly advertise your pain. I simply encourage us all to be supportive of those who are grieving. Our furry friends are members of our families and greatly missed.

## **Happy Birthday!**

A very happy birthday to Izzy who is celebrating this month!

If you are under 18 and have a birthday this month and I didn't mention you.....be sure to tell me!

**Honored to serve,  
Mayor Anuschka Bales**