



Town of Ignacio Newsletter

January 5, 2022

Volume V, Issue 1

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE:

The regular Town Board Meeting is the second Monday of each month.

Town Board Meeting

Mon, January 10th
6:30PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room and
via Remote Public Meeting

Planning Commission Meeting

Wed, January 12th
6:00PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room and
via Remote Public Meeting

Town Hall Closed

Mon, January 17th

In Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome to 2022!

Town Hall Hours of Operation

Town Hall is open to the public 10 AM to 2 PM Monday through Friday. Staff is available by phone between 9 AM and 4 PM Monday thru Friday.

Land Use and Development Code Update

The Town Board and Planning Commission have completed their review of the Land Use and Development Code Update. A draft version of the Code is available for review at the Ignacio Library, at Town Hall, and on the Town's website. The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on January 12 at 6:00 PM, and the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on February 14 at 6:30 PM.

Written comments for the Planning Commission Public Hearing must be received at Town Hall by Friday, January 7. The meeting agenda will provide detailed information on how you can participate in the Public Hearing. The agenda will be on the Town's website and will also be posted at the Library, Post Office, and front door of the Abel F. Atencio Community Room by the end of the day on Friday, January 7, 2022.

Utility Rate Changes

The following rate changes, adopted at the December 13 Board Meeting following a properly noticed public hearing, are effective for the January 2022 billing period:

- Water base rate will increase from \$26.48 to \$27.67; the rate per thousand gallons will remain at \$6.00 plus 10% Loss Factor and 5% Capital Factor.
- Gas base rate will increase from \$23.75 to \$24.82; the rate per MCF will still be based on the SUUD rate plus 10% capital factor.
- Sewer base rate will increase from \$14.84 to \$18.58. The Town is returning to an ERT model for sewer charges (1 ERT = 3,000 gallons); each ERT will be \$44.00. Sewer will continue to be charged based on water usage from the prior winter months, and the rate will be fixed for the entire year.
- The only recycling cart size that will be available in 2022 is the 64-gallon size; the charge for this cart will be \$10.00. TDL will pick up all 35-gallon and 96-gallon carts and replace them with one 64-gallon cart. Please contact Town Hall if you wish to be removed from or added to the recycling route.
- Irrigation Rates and Trash Rates remain unchanged.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Town Hall.



If you smell natural gas

in your home or business, leave immediately! Do not turn light switches on or off, especially in the area you smell gas. Do not use your cell phone until you are outside and can no longer smell any gas. Call 911, the Fire Department (970-563-9501), or Dispatch (970-563-4401) if you smell gas at any time.



Si huele gas natural

en su casa o negocio, salga inmediatamente, sin pagar los interruptores de las luces, especialmente en el área que se siente olor a gas. ESPERAR a usar su teléfono celular hasta que ya no pueda oler el gas. Llame al número local de emergencias (911), al Departamento de Bomberos (970-563-9501), o diligencia al numero 970-563-4401, si siente olor a gas en cualquier momento.



Snow Removal

The Public Works Department is involved in snow removal operations. During snow storms, please park your vehicles in your driveway or garage and leave the street clear for snow plows. Also, the Town Code states that it is unlawful to plow, shovel, push, or place snow from privately owned property into any street, road, alley or highway in the Town. Please help Town crews as they work hard to keep Town streets clear of snow and safe for your travel. Thank you.

Low-income Energy Assistance Program

The Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) began on November 1 and will run through April 30, 2022. LEAP is a federally funded program and is designed to help eligible low-income households with winter home heating costs. To apply, go to <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/leap>. They have a limited amount of funds for assistance with water and wastewater as well; the application for that program is also online under Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

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Carbon Monoxide & Smoke Detectors

According to Colorado State Law, every home must have Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors installed. The smoke alarms must be installed both inside and outside of each sleeping room. Battery operated units should have a new battery installed every six (6) months.

Town Burn Pile

To drop off your tree limbs, grass clippings and other organic material at the Burn Pile, please call the on-call number (970-759-3660) to set an appointment. Please note that if the ground is muddy, access to the Burn Pile will be closed until conditions are satisfactory.

Online Payments

You can pay your Town utility bill **ONLINE!** Go to the Town's website town-of-ignacio.colorado.gov and look for the "Pay Your Bill Online" link at the bottom of the home page. You will be charged a fee of \$1.00 for electronic checks, and \$0.75 + 2.25% of the transaction for debit or credit payments. You can mail your payment to:
PO Box 459
Ignacio, CO 81137
or drop it in the night drop box (no cash, please).
If you have a cash payment, you can visit Town Hall between 10 AM and 2 PM Monday through Friday. Thanks!

Town of Ignacio Elections

Three Trustee seats and the Mayoral seat are up for election on April 5, 2022. This could be your opportunity to serve your community and influence the vision and direction of the Town of Ignacio. In order to qualify as a candidate, you must: be eighteen (18) years of age by April 5, 2022; have resided in the Town of Ignacio for the 12 months immediately preceding April 5, 2022; be a registered elector within the Town of Ignacio; complete the nomination petition and obtain a minimum of ten (10) valid signatures of registered electors from within Town limits. Nomination packets can be picked up on or after January 4, 2022, and all completed packets must be returned to the Clerk no later than close of business on Monday, January 24, 2022. The polling place for the election is the Abel F. Atencio Community Room, 570 Goddard Ave., from 7AM to 7PM on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Go to <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/vote/VoterHome.html> and click on "Find my Registration" to ensure that your registration status is current.

Safety Reminder

Please remember to always lock your car and never leave valuables in it, especially not in plain view. This will prevent thieves from having easy access to your valuable items.

Ignacio School District

The Ignacio School District will be hosting a Strategic Planning meeting with all stakeholders on Monday, January 24th from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Ignacio High School Auditorium. This will be the first of a series of meetings at the School District to create a mission statement and develop a strategic plan. Both will guide the district over the next five years.

Southern Colorado Community Action Agency

Southern Colorado Community Action Agency (SoCoCAA) is actively seeking Board members. Members do not need to live in Ignacio. If interested, please call (970) 563-4517 or email Lori Niewold, Executive Director: lniewold@sococaa.org. SoCoCAA is hiring for the following positions: Career Counselor; CHC Project Coordinator; Monitoring Technician Substitute; Addiction Specialist/Program Coordinator; Bus Driver; PV Program Coordinator; Substitute Teachers; Teacher Assistant. Please go to www.sococaa.org to submit your application or call 970-563-4517.

San Juan Basin Public Health WIC and SNAP Programs

Once again, the recently passed federal budget continuing resolution favored the WIC program with another continuation of an increased dollar amount for the fruit and vegetable portion of the WIC food benefits. Colorado WIC families will see the following increase on their WIC debit card through the end of March 2022: \$24/month for children, \$43/month for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$47/month for breastfeeding participants.

Pine River Shares

FREE food bags for kids! Pick up a bag of kid-friendly food on Fridays between 9 AM and 5 PM at ELHI Community Center, 115 Ute Street in Ignacio. Call 970-884-6040 for more information. Pine River Shares also provides family food bags at ELHI on Saturdays between 11 AM and 1 PM.

Free Legal Clinics

La Plata County is offering free legal clinics on the second Friday of each month, 4-5 PM, at Ignacio Community Library. Please call 970-563-9287 if you would like to attend.

Homebuyer Education Classes

HomesFund offers free first-time homebuyer education classes in La Plata County. You have the opportunity to qualify for Down-Payment Assistance Funds by attending one of these classes. To register, go to: <https://homesfund.org/attend-a-class>.