



Town of Ignacio Newsletter

December 5, 2021

Volume VI, Issue 12

**Welcome
to Ignacio!**

Please wear a face covering at all indoor public spaces and practice 6-foot social distancing.

These practices help keep our community healthy & businesses safe.



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 December 8 at 6:00 PM, and the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on December 13 at 6:30 PM. Written comments can be submitted to Town Hall, and must be received on the Wednesday prior to the Public Hearings. Detailed information on how you can participate in these Public Hearings can be found 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 at least 24 hours prior to each of these meetings.

Public Hearing on Potential Utility Rate Changes

The Town Board will host a public hearing on December 13 at 6:30 PM regarding potential utility rate changes for 2022. Written comments must be received at Town Hall by end of day on Wednesday, December 8. Detailed information on how you can participate in these Public Hearings can be found 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 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Utility Billing Information

- The standard **Utility Billing Policy** is in place, which states that late fees will be applied to any account with an outstanding balance on the 26th of the month. If your account remains delinquent, your utilities will be shut off on the 10th of the following month, and you will need to pay the past due amount plus a \$50.00 Reconnect Fee to have your utilities turned back on.
- Please note that the Public Works Department will not light your furnace, water heater or stove.
- The on-call number (970-759-3660) is for **utility emergencies ONLY**. If you have billing or service questions, please call Town Hall and speak with staff.

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>. If you received assistance last year, you need to reapply this year. 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).

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Planning Commission Meeting

Wed, December 8th
6:00PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting

Town Board Meeting

Mon, December 13th
6:30PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting

Town Hall Closed

Fri, December 10th

In Observance of Leonard C. Burch Day

Town Hall Closed

Fri, December 24th

In Observance of Christmas

Town Hall Closed

Fri, December 31st

In Observance of New Year's Day



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 número 970-563-4401, si siente olor a gas en cualquier momento.



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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!

Ignacio School District

The Ignacio School District will be developing a 5 year strategic plan over the next several months. It is vital for the district to gather input and feedback from community stakeholders. The first element of the plan is a survey that will assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within our school system. Please complete the online survey, which can be found at:

<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/ignaciosdco/community/surveys?language=en>.

The survey window will close on December 10th, 2021. We will collect and analyze the data in late December. Starting in January, we will begin having public meetings to develop a mission statement and create a strategic matrix that we hope to have completed in June of 2022. Thank you for your participation in this important survey and in the strategic planning process.

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. If you would like to check your registration status, log onto <http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/vote/VoterHome.html> and click on "Find my Registration." 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.

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: Addiction Specialist/Program Coordinator; Bus Driver; Clerical/Dispatch; Monitoring Technician Substitute; PV Program Coordinator; Substitute Teachers; Teacher Assistant. Please go to www.sococaa.org to submit your application or call 970-563-4517 and ask to speak with Nita Emerson, HR Administrative Manager.

San Juan Basin Public Health WIC and SNAP Programs

The recently passed federal budget continuing resolution included a provision to extend the increased fruit and vegetable portion of the WIC food benefits for our WIC participants. Colorado WIC families will see the following increase on their WIC debit card for the months of November and December: \$24/month for children, \$43/month for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$47/month for breastfeeding participants. For more information contact the San Juan Basin Public Health WIC Program (sjbpublichealth.org/wic).

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>.