

## Manager's Message

The new Christmas decorations and banners were installed along Main Street, Grand Avenue and Sterkel Blvd this past week and should be an improvement from what the Town had in previous years. The new permanent decorative lights around Town Hall have also been a nice addition and will be displayed throughout the year for various holidays and events. Since the Town doesn't own or control Main Street or the street lights we were able to obtain permission from CDOT and Xcel to install new decorations which is very much appreciated. The Annual Christmas Decorating Contest is scheduled for the week of December 18-22 and prizes will be awarded for the top three decorated properties along with several honorable mentions. I'm sometimes told that it's not government's role or function to decorate for holidays or have such contests but I believe local government needs to do it's part in promoting the community and I refuse to be a "bah humbug" during the holidays.

Several months ago the Town was notified that B&C Refuse was sold to a company called Ram Waste Systems (RWS) and the community was not properly informed about this change. I assumed when RWS took over it would notify its new customers but when I called their customer support team recently I was informed that they thought the Town notified the community. Since the Town contracts with B&C (still the name used) or RWS to provide trash collection services it realistically should have been the Town

notifying the community of this change so I need to apologize to everyone for my assumption and oversight. The direct number to call to speak with a RWS customer service representative is 970.226.3396 which is in their Fort Collins office. I was informed that the old number for B&C (970.785.2908) is currently being forwarded to their customer service department but will eventually be disconnected. RWS also has a website (ramwastesystems.com) that customers can get important information about services and holiday schedules and can also submit questions or comments online. When B&C was acquired by RWS the agreement was to keep the annual rate increases at a cap of 3% for the next few years but I have not been notified of a rate increase for 2024 at this time. The trash collection schedule will also remain the same but the amount of containers or trash taken will eventually change as RWS will likely restrict the number and size of containers in the next few years. The Town was very fortunate to contract with B&C Refuse for many years and hopes to establish and maintain a similar positive relationship with Ram Waste Systems in the years to come.

Typically the Board of Trustees adopts the operating and capital budget during the first

## Town Departments

### Administration

400 Grand Avenue  
Platteville, CO 80651  
(970) 785-2245  
Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm  
[www.plattevillegov.org](http://www.plattevillegov.org)

### Police Dept.

(970) 785-2215  
Non-Emergency Dispatch:  
(970) 356-1212

### Public Works Dept.

(970) 785-6415  
After Hours:  
(970) 304-2534

### Recreation & Seniors

508 Reynolds Avenue  
(720) 438-0711

### Pioneer Museum

502 Marion Avenue  
(970) 785-6285  
Mon & Wed 10:00am-3:00pm  
Sat. 10:00-2:00pm

### Ft. Vasquez Museum

**Welcome Center**  
13412 US85  
(970) 785-2832  
Wed, Sat, Sun 10am-3pm

### Public Library

504 Marion Ave./PO Box 567  
(970) 785-2231  
Mon – Fri 10:00am-6:00pm  
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm  
[www.PPLCO.us](http://www.PPLCO.us)

### Nantes Library (Gilcrest)

703 Birch Street  
Gilcrest, CO 80623  
(970) 737-1035  
Mon-Fri 10:00am-6:00pm  
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm  
[www.nanteslibrary.us](http://www.nanteslibrary.us)

### Manager's Message (cont.)

meeting of December but due to the recent special session of the Colorado Congress that Governor Polis called the budget approval has been pushed back to the second week of January. The increased property taxes stemming from the very high assessed valuations have caused serious concerns and various efforts are being made to reduce those costs for property owners state-wide. Not all details are known yet so I'll probably discuss this further during next month's newsletter once more information is available.

This is also that time of the year when the Board reviews the Town's fee schedule and makes adjustments as needed to offset costs for services. Rates did increase for non-residential cemetery lot purchases at the Mizpah Cemetery along with the fee charged for dump trucks and larger loads during cleanup days. All other standard fees for services remained the same but unfortunately increases were also needed water and sewer base rates to offset increased costs for both utilities.

The Town obtains all of its potable (drinking) water from the Central Weld County Water District (CWCWD) and was notified of a 20% increase in costs for treatment and delivery this upcoming year. To offset that cost staff recommended to increase the water base rates but not the usage rates at this time. The standard residential base rate is currently \$42.40 per month and it will increase \$7.21 to \$49.61 monthly which is a \$86.52 annual increase for water. CWCWD notified all of its customers (i.e. town and cities) of the same increase so we are not alone in dealing with this issue. The usage rates and tiers remain the same at this time and is being evaluated by the Town's contract engineering firm (Civil Resources) as a new Water Rate Study will be completed by the end of this month.

The sewer or wastewater base rate for residential use is currently \$42.20 per month and it will increase \$2.53 resulting in a new \$44.73 base rate monthly charge or \$30.36 annual increase. This rate increase is needed for both annual operations costs but also the debt service or loan of the new wastewater treatment facility (WWTF).

This past month the Town closed on the final loan with the Colorado Water Quality Control Division in the amount of \$5,928,232. The final construction cost for the WWTF was \$7,055,907 but the Town was fortunate to obtain a \$800,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs and another \$327,675 Small Communities Grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to reduce those costs. Once the initial cost estimates were obtained and the grants awarded the initial loan was approved by the State in the amount of \$6,300,000 to complete the WWTF but our Public Works Director and engineering consultant (JVA) were able to save an additional \$371,767 in construction costs resulting in the final debt service or loan for \$5,928,232. The Town's contract accountant further advised that by not taking the full loan amount that the State authorized the Town also saved an additional \$135,396 in interest over the term of the loan which is currently thirty years. This is the largest debt service the Town has ever had to my knowledge but we did work very hard to reduce the final amount as much as possible to prevent larger rate increases.

As we head into another year I'll continue providing information to the community in the monthly utility newsletter and also through the Everbridge message system.