

Manager's Message

Capital Projects

It's getting closer to spring and the Town has been busy scheduling its annual summer projects to continue improving our infrastructure by focusing on roads, sidewalks and water/sewer utilities. The past few years the Town has completed several large road and sidewalk projects including paving Reynolds Avenue including a new sidewalk, repaving Grand Avenue with new sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, removing the center median on the majority of Buck Rake Blvd and repaving the street, and constructing the new South Front Street gravel road from CR32 to CR30. These capital improvements resulted in an overall infrastructure investment or cost of approximately \$3.2 million dollars paid from the General and Capital Improvement Funds. This spring and summer we're focusing more on street maintenance as all of "old town" from Grand Avenue south to Salisbury and from Vasquez Blvd west to River Road will receive crack sealing, patching (as needed) and chip sealing all streets. We're also doing this same work in the 300 blocks of Washington, Lincoln and Reynolds on the east side of Main Street north of Grand Avenue.

Several other capital projects include constructing new sidewalks on both sides of Olive Lane north of Grand Avenue in a two block area that was never completed when the subdivision was built, replacing a large section of sewer line near Vasquez Blvd and Riverview Park that serves the Platteville Apartments and several businesses in the area, and constructing a stormwater culvert on South Front Street to improve stormwater flow during heavy rain events. The Town also budgeted funds to add a few new amenities at the Community Complex including the installation of a new batting cage between the two ballfields and building a small pickle ball court near the Senior Center. I'm ordering several climbing rocks for the kids to

play on in the front of the Community Center and likely an inground mounted basketball goal for the east side of the parking lot. During rentals and evening events the kids sometimes get bored with nothing to do so these play amenities should help keep them busy. At some point a larger playground will likely be installed but we're still working on implementing the Community Complex Master Plan and have several items to finalize before that amenity is pursued. The playgrounds in our four public parks recently received new woodchips and I also submitted a Weld County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to install new ADA handicap ramps at all of the playgrounds including several new sidewalks to access them better. Grant awards should be announced in a few weeks and if we're successful with an award those ADA improvements will be completed this fall once funds are available.

This month I wanted to discuss the Mizpah Cemetery along with the Veterans Memorial to promote these two important community landmarks

Mizpah Cemetery

The Town owns and maintains the Mizpah Cemetery that is located at 12837 Weld County Road 32 approximately 1/2 mile east of Highway 85. The cemetery is a very important feature and landmark in our community and has a lot of history that's very interesting and worth researching. I enjoy knowing our history and wanted to provide a very brief overview in this month's newsletter with more information that can be found on the Town's website or by visiting the Pioneer Museum and Welcome Center at Fort Vasquez.

Town Departments

Administration

400 Grand Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2245
Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm
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

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

Manager's Message (cont.)

The Mizpah Cemetery is known as the oldest cemetery in Weld County and originated in the 1800's but specific records from the early years are difficult to locate. In 1926, the Mizpah Club, formerly known as the Sandhill Women, made improving the cemetery their club project. The Town supplied the water and agreed to match dollar for dollar what the Club could raise to benefit their work at the cemetery. In 1939 the Works Progress Administration (WPA) fenced the cemetery and installed the first rock gateway and cement markers to identify individual lots. The second rock gateway was built and dedicated to the memory of the area servicemen who lost their lives in World War II.

Many celebrated founders of early Weld County are buried in the Mizpah Cemetery. Those famous or on occasion infamous settlers include Rattlesnake Kate, who killed 140 rattlesnakes to create a dress that she wore to celebrations throughout the county, Marshall Cook, a justice of the peace and published writer, the area's first surveyor, countless servicemen and their families, and early lawyers, bankers, merchants and physicians. Many of Platteville's first families were buried at the cemetery with some of whom have relatives still living in the area.

The cemetery is close to being at capacity so the Town is pursuing an expansion to the cemetery that will be located directly east of the Veterans Memorial and will be completed by the end of 2025. New fencing is also being planned for along CR32 to replace the existing chain link fence with additional stone pillars on the new east expansion to match the original ones built in the 1930's and 1940's.

Veterans Memorial

The Platteville Veterans Memorial is located inside the Mizpah Cemetery and is one of our community's most beautiful and prized public facilities that honor our military veterans. A group of local residents and volunteers started working on the concept of the Memorial about 15 years ago and in 2012 a design was completed by the Pridian Design Group that led to construction plans being completed in 2013. During this timeframe many donations were solicited and received that totaled approximately \$168,431 in both monetary donations and in-kind services with the largest donations coming from the Gerald Rennels and Raymond & Niles Miller families. The project

came to a point in 2016 in which more funding was needed and in-kind services to complete the construction had become very difficult to secure. The Board of Trustees discussed the Veterans Memorial project in further detail that year and after reviewing the estimated funding that was still needed to purchase materials and hire contractors to complete the project the Board authorized up to \$100,000 to get the memorial finished.

The construction on the new Memorial started again in the spring of 2017 with the majority of the concrete and mason work being completed that summer followed by the memorial wall, shelter and landscaping. With the new Veterans Memorial being completed the Town and Veterans Memorial Committee held a dedication service on October 28, 2017 to officially dedicate and open the Memorial for everyone to enjoy and honor our military veterans. In 2018 the Town and Committee established an agreement in which the Committee manages the Memorial to coordinate and schedule military services and hold holiday events, such as Memorial and Veterans Day activities, to honor our veterans and active service members. The Veterans Memorial Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month at 6:00pm at Town Hall and volunteer members are always appreciated and the meetings are open to the public.

With Easter fast approaching (yes, the last day of March instead of being in April) there are two Easter Egg Hunts that are scheduled, one by the Platteville Elementary School PTO and the other by the Platteville Lions Club. The PTO Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Platteville Elementary School on Saturday, March 24th from 1:00pm to approximately 3:00pm. Four age divisions will be held including ages 0-4 at 1:20pm, 5-6 at 1:35pm, 7-8 at 1:55pm and 9-12 at 2:15pm. The Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for the following Saturday on March 30th starting at 9:30am at Lincoln Park. The Lions Club does its Easter Egg Hunt at one time (10:00am) for all ages as the park is marked and designated by age zones to allow similar age categories in separate areas of the park. Both Easter Egg Hunts will be fun events to attend for everyone in the community.