

## Manager's Message

It's hard to believe that I started writing the monthly TOP's (Town of Platteville) newsletter 17 years ago to provide general Town and community information in the monthly utility billing. Over the years I've tried to discuss important or relevant information on topics or projects that I believe the community is interested in or would benefit our community. I'm always open to writing about other ideas and topics so just call or email me if you want me to focus on anything specific that might be of community interest. I did have a resident tell me recently that I need to put a title or topic name for each item I write about as sometimes she just wants to read certain things and not others. A fair and honest request so I'll try to do that moving forward. By no means am I qualified to be a seasoned writer as I make plenty of mistakes, just a Town Manager who wants to share information to the residents that may be of interest.

In this month's newsletter I will discuss several topics consisting of the Town's largest capital improvement project for the year, a newly acquired property for future development, and two recreation-based master plans that are actively being worked on in 2025.

### Mizpah Cemetery Expansion

The primary capital project that is budgeted of the upcoming year is the expansion of the Mizpah Cemetery to the east of the Veterans Memorial site. During the November 19th Board of Trustee meeting a contract was awarded to Brightview Landscape Development (Parker, CO) in the amount of \$1,201,978 to complete the expansion this upcoming year. The primary scope of work for this project involves installing a new pump at the irrigation pond with an upsized irrigation line to connect to the existing cemetery system and extend to the new east side section. Once the irrigation

upgrades have been made the east section will be graded and plotted for burial lots, tree rows and internal road access. Initially the Town was going to split this project into two years for budgetary purposes but to also to ensure the irrigation was not impacted during the summer months. Brightview has proposed a process in which the new pump and irrigation lines will be installed without impacting the regular watering so the project can be completed in one fiscal year while utilizing the summer months. Once the expansion is complete the new east section will provide enough spaces for approximately 1,000+ burials which should provide availability for more than the next 30 years. The Mizpah Cemetery is known to be the oldest cemetery in Weld County with a lot of historical significance and making this investment to ensure the cemetery is available for many more years is very important to many in our community.

### Platte River Farms Development

The Town purchased this undeveloped subdivision this past spring which is located south of Highway 66 between Main Street and the South Platte River. The property was initially annexed and platted for a 100 home residential subdivision in 2005 but was never developed due to various issues including the inability of providing wastewater service to that many homes. I've been working with the Public Works Director and Town Engineer to design a conceptual layout of how the property can be developed into approximately 10-20 large (1.0 -2.5 acres) residential lots (septic sewer with Town water) with several acres of retail commercial near Highway 66 and a possible industrial lot on the south end

## Town Departments

### Administration

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

### 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.)

directly west of the Jomax business. Several conceptual proposals will be presented to the Board during the January 21st meeting and once the final proposal is selected I'll work with the Town Engineer and Planner to replat the property to be developed in the next few years.

### Community Complex Master Plan

Several smaller capital projects to improve the Community Complex that will be worked on this year includes the installation of a new batting cage between the two ballfield, building a pickleball / tennis court near the Community Center and designing a walking trail around the complex to start and end at the Senior Center. These three features are identified in the Community Complex Master Plan that was completed in 2021 after the 5-acre Deines farm property was purchased and included with the Community Complex for future recreational amenities to be developed. The Town is also working with Real Colorado, a non-profit group that provides grant funding to build soccer fields and other sports amenities, to develop an agreement to install a multi-use sports field on the Deines property directly east of the Community Complex that will be used primarily for soccer but also for football practices and games. After several years of working on other projects it's time to implement several features or recreational amenities at the Community Complex that were identified in the Master Plan but the largest new amenity of building a Fieldhouse near the corner of Reynolds and Division still needs to wait. The Fieldhouse concept is to basically provide a smaller recreation center style facility that would have basketball / volleyball courts with fitness equipment and exercise rooms but without the inside water features such as a pool, hot tub and lazy river. Several communities including Evans and Fort Morgan have built community centers and fieldhouses that have provided a wide variety of youth and adult recreation activities but without the significant expense and liability of a pool and hot tubs. Implementing an outdoor splashpad with a playground area near the Fieldhouse would be realistic as these would be much more affordable to maintain. A copy of the Community Complex Master Plan can be found on the Town's website under the Recreation Department section for review and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

### Platteville Nature Preserve

Several years ago the LG Everist Company dedicated to the Town an 8-acre parcel of land located at the northwest side of CR23 and CR32.5 next to the South Platte River for the purpose of establishing a nature viewing area and public access to the river. Since that time the Board of Trustees formally designated the property as the Platteville Nature Preserve and authorized the local Parks, Trails & Trees (PTT) Committee to complete a Master Plan to show how the property would be developed. The Open Space Master Plan was completed in 2023 to show how the Nature Preserve will be developed including a public parking area that accessed an internal trail system with wildlife and native habitat viewing areas. During this past year the Town's Public Works Department has met with the PTT Committee to stake-out the parking area and trail network which will be developed this spring and summer. LG Everist continues to partner with the Town on this project and will provide a large stone sign for the Nature Preserve entrance along with the road base to construct the parking area surface. In time a trail system will be developed and extend from the Rodgers Farm Park along CR32.5 to the Nature Preserve area but for now the Town and PTT Committee want to get the parking area and trail completed so the community can access the property while the other features of the Master Plan are competed. The Open Space Master Plan for the Platteville Nature Preserve can be found on the Town's website under Residents / Facilities / Parks tabs.

### Town Hall Message Board

A new message or notice board was installed outside the front doors at Town Hall this past fall that I update weekly with information on meetings, community or department activities, and general items of interest. I also place copies of these items and other information near the front office window for residents to have as needed. Take care and I hope everyone has a good start to the New Year.

Troy Renken, Town Manager