



The season change to autumn is right on schedule!

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER – TOWN OF RICO - 2004

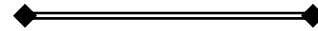
Quasquicentennial – Rico will celebrate its 125th birthday on **Saturday, September 25th**. The festivities officially begin at noon at the Rico Town Park. Activities include a potluck picnic, live band, group photo, guest speakers, children's games, historic presentations and fireworks. All of Rico's community organizations are helping to organize this event and lots of volunteers are needed, so contact anyone from the Rico Women's Club, Rico Historic Society, Fire Protection District or Alpine Society to help out.



Sewer Site Studies: The Town Board conducted a special meeting on August 16th to review information on alternative potential sewer sites. Mike Hannigan and Chris Wilbur attended to answer questions about engineering and flood plain issues. Additional studies have shown that the proposed site just north of the cemetery, east of Highway 145, and west of the rail road grade is owned by Rico Renaissance. Rico Renaissance has indicated that they are willing to donate this site to the Town for a sewer treatment facility. Other sites included a portion of the commercial area in Sundial and the old softball field area (Colorado Bell placer claim).

The Town Board decided to pursue federal and state approval of the site north of the cemetery. The Board directed Town's staff and consultants to amend the Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Assessment to designate the north cemetery site as the wastewater treatment site. Once the

documents are amended they will be submitted to state and federal agencies for review and another public hearing will be scheduled.



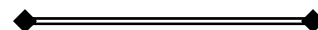
Town Manager Vacancy: The Town Board decided to advertise for a Public Works Director/Town Administrator. The Town is publishing job advertisements in Colorado and National local government publications. The closing date for applications is October 15th. Selection of finalists and interviews should occur in November. A public works director with an engineering certification and utility construction experience was deemed desirable due to the number of pending public utility and other construction projects.



Rico Regional Master Plan: The Board of Trustees adopted a revised and updated Rico Regional Master Plan at its regular August meeting. The new Rico Regional Master Plan can be obtained on-line at www.ricocolorado.org on the Town Hall web page.



The Rico Center: The Rico Center is accepting grant applications for 2004. Grant applications can be obtained on the Town's website at www.ricocolorado.org.



Rico Soils VCUP: Soil sampling crews are in town and conducting soil sampling. Over 80% of property owners have signed access agreements. The sampling should take another 2 to 3 weeks. If

you have not signed a sampling agreement and would like to do so, please contact Eric Heil, at (970) 967-5550, or at eric@ericjamesheil.com, immediately.

Watershed Planning: The first meeting of the Rico Watershed Planning stakeholders group was held on August 24th, 2004, in Rico. Many stakeholders attended, including representatives from Montezuma and Dolores Counties, Division of Wildlife, Forest Service, EPA, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Colorado Water Conservation Board. Matrix Design Group (Denver based consultants hired by CWCB) presented several maps that identify known water quality issues impacting the Dolores River in the Rico area. A final report will be presented to the public in September or October.

DWCD Petitions: Petitions to join the Dolores Water Conservancy District were submitted to the District Court. A hearing has been scheduled for October 14th. If no protest petition is submitted before the hearing then it is likely that the District Court Judge will approve the Town of Rico's petition to join the Dolores Water Conservancy District.

Business Directory: The Business Directory on the Town's website is now being updated. For an annual fee of \$25, businesses can include contact information, business description, e-mail address and link to a website on the Town's website. Contact Becky Stephens at becky@ericjamesheil.com to subscribe to the Town's Business Directory.

Code Enforcement: The Town is actively removing abandoned vehicles from Town. If your vehicle is not registered and operable it is deemed to be an abandoned vehicle and a nuisance. It is also time to start clearing stored materials from Town streets. It is easier and faster for Dennis to plow in the winter when streets are clear. The Town Board may consider an ordinance this fall declaring storage on town streets to be a nuisance. *Please clean-up your streets before it begins snowing!*

Courthouse Restoration, Phase II: The Town Board reviewed qualifications from three contractors and decided to competitively bid the restoration work. Bids will be reviewed in early September. Phase II restoration will include restoration of all exterior windows, repair and repointing of exterior masonry, restoration of the front vestibule, and installation of copper gutters on the south, east and north sides. The Phase II work should be completed by the end of the 2005 summer.

September 11th Peace Park: A peace gathering with a variety of local and regional musicians will take place at the Town Park on September 11th in the afternoon. Many activities are scheduled. For anyone who likes peace and peaces lovers, this is an excellent event to attend in Rico!

Meetings Schedule: All meetings are at the Rico Town Hall unless otherwise stated.

- September 15th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees
 - Regular meeting
- September 22nd, 6:00 p.m. Rico Planning Commission
 - Site walks
- September 28th, 6:30 p.m. Rico Planning Commission
 - Regular meeting
- September 29th, 7:00 p.m. Trustees
 - Work Session

Vacancies: No vacancies exist on the Rico Town Board or Rico Planning Commission.

