

Branson Town News

Brought To You By The Branson Town Council

Water Clerk Hired

At its August meeting, Council hired longtime resident **Gabi Freisel** as the town's new Water Clerk. In that role, she will be responsible for sending out monthly water/trash bills in a timely manner. Thanks to recent system upgrades by **Town Clerk Carolyn Pickard**, bills can now be sent via email or hardcopy and can be paid online. Rounding out the team is **Town Treasurer Lori Green**, who oversees bank deposits. If you want to switch to email billing, contact **Carolyn**.

"Gravel Grinder" Set For October 13

After a presentation by cycle enthusiasts **Christine Louden and Jeff Dilda**, Council gave its blessing to the **Gravel Grinder** bicycle ride set for October 13. The ride includes three routes of varying lengths, primarily on CO and NM state and county dirt roads – and is expected to attract cyclists from Santa Fe to Colorado Springs. Organizers envision the event becoming an annual Branson happening. To learn more and get involved, contact Christine or Jeff (if they don't get to you first).

Town Clean-Up Set for September 22-23

In 2017, the Town created a Source Water Protection Plan with help from the CO Rural Water Association. Thanks to active participation by locals of all ages, we earned a \$5,000 grant. Original plans for fire mitigation work near the springs were cut short by the Emery Gap fire. (Springs are fine, by the way.)

A new plan focuses on clearing dead trees, branches and yard debris from town while lessening fire risk and also spreading the word about the importance of our drinking water.

We will rent a chipper **September 22/23** and are assembling a crew of workers. If you need the services of the crew **or** if you would like to work for \$15/hour, reply to this email or contact any Town Council member. We will create a schedule but cannot guarantee we will get to everyone.

Branson School students, water customers, and crew members will also receive stainless steel water bottles printed with the message "Branson Sweet Springs - Water Worth Protecting." More details to come, along with a surprise or two!



Yum! Shoppers stock up on farm-fresh squash, tomatoes, melons and more from Jacob Froese and daughter Adrienne. Mom Kerry (not shown) is one of Margaret Lewis's granddaughters.

Your Town Council Works For You

Mayor Rachel Snyder
719-946-5656
RachelSnyderWrites@gmail.com

Town Clerk/Trustee
Carolyn Pickard 719-859-3568
carolyn.pickard5@yahoo.com

Town Treasurer/Trustee
Lori Green 719-946-5519
lorigreen22@gmail.com

Mayor Pro Tem/Trustee
Christine Loudon 303-898-5929
christine@aspenint.com

Trustee Laura Brown
719-859-3500
firefly7982@gmail.com

Trustee Letha Martinez
719-404-6005
letha.t.martinez@gmail.com

Trustee Dean Clausen
719-458-5330
dclausen@bransonschoolonline.com

The Town is also served by:

Water Commissioner
Brad Doherty 719-859-4133
bldoherty@gmail.com

Water Billing Clerk
Gabi Freisel 719-353-1686
gandleather96@gmail.com

Water Reader Meter
Emery Thompson

Regular Council meetings are at 6pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Town Hall. If changes in date or time are necessary in order to gather a quorum, posted notices will be highlighted to indicate a change.



Question Corner: Your Right to Privacy

At a recent meeting, a resident asked to receive, on a monthly basis, copies of every water customer's meter readings and bills. We contacted the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and learned the Town of Branson is under no obligation to share the private information of any water customer without a court order. (CO Revised Statutes 24-72-204(3)(a)(IX). Rest assured we will keep your information private.

Town of Branson Bits & Bytes

New flags (both US and Colorado) are flying at the Jail Park and looking sharp... **Delinquent water customers** may now be turned over to a Denver collection agency unless they work out a signed agreement with Council. Detailed letters have been sent to customers with significant past due accounts. Please reply to avoid shutoffs or being sent to collections... **Elder or low-income residents** concerned about energy costs this winter may have the chance to meet Council of Governments (COG) staff *in Branson* to learn about eligibility for these and other services. If you'd like to learn more, contact Rachel.