



Granite Falls E-Newsletter

Spring 2024

Suggestions? Let us know! Terra Rafael & Sam Marutzky
Co-Editors of Granite Falls Enews granitefallsnews@gmail.com

Notes from the HOA Annual meeting –

Our 2024 annual homeowners meeting was held on February 20. Forty-seven homeowners were present in person or by proxy. Brian Langfitt and Todd Sanders were elected as Directors. The annual budget was approved, with each lot assessment remaining at \$580, which brings our reserve fund total to \$9000. The Board was directed to develop and propose a recommended reserve fund strategy and amount prior to the 2025 annual meeting.

For more info see: <https://granitefallshoa.com/2024-annual-mtg-documents/>



Our Natural Area Update

Our subdivision has qualified to participate in the Firewise Program which involves the fire mitigation work being done in the 7-acre Natural Area as well as various community outreach projects. The goals for our Natural Area are to mitigate fire hazards, to benefit wildlife, and to provide a safe and usable natural area for residents to enjoy. We received a grant of \$8000, matched in part by our HOA, to begin the work of clearing a fire break and creating corridors through stands of trees and shrubs. This initial phase of work commenced in February and was completed by late March.

Work party for Natural Area

At some point in the near future, we need volunteers to help enhance the trails in the 7-acre Natural Area. The crews have cleared out the firebreak along the fence lines and cut three main access routes through the Russian olive stands. Wood chips from the cleared areas were spread over the access routes to help cover the ruts made during clearing. The work crews have left us several additional piles of wood chips that we need to spread out along the main trails. We need people with wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, and lots of elbow grease for a few hours one weekend to get this done. Date to be announced!



Save the Date! Saturday, May 4

Annual Spring Clean-up

We need volunteers for a few hours May 4 morning to pick up debris and cut weeds in the other common areas of our subdivision, mainly along South Camp, in the swale, and in our retention pond.

Get to Know a Fire Truck

Between our other events, something for kids of all ages! Learn about and explore a Fire Truck with the help of local firefighters. In the Sieber cul-de-sac. Time to be announced

Neighborhood Get-together

The Spring Neighborhood potluck party is scheduled for Saturday May 4th late afternoon-supper time.. There will be tables and chairs and outdoor games in the Sieber cul-de-sac. BYOB and a dish of something to share with your neighbors. This is a great time to meet your neighbors!

Time details will be announced.

Do You Care About the Future of Grand Junction?


OPEN HOUSE


Sustainability and Adaptation Plan

- ✓ Hear about the work being done to create this plan
- ✓ Learn more about the focus areas for Grand Junction
- ✓ Provide your input on the draft plan



 **Sunday April 21, 2024**

 1 - 3 p.m.

 Lincoln Park Barn
910 N 12th St.

 **City of Grand Junction**
COLORADO

Give Input to Sustainability Grand Junction

The City of Grand Junction will host a bilingual Sustainability and Adaptation open house on April 21, 2024, at the Lincoln Park Barn from 1-3 p.m. for community members to learn more about the draft Sustainability and Adaptation Plan (SAP) and provide input on strategies for each focus area.

Goals, strategies, and actions have been identified in each of five focus areas to help the city reach targets to improve environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Example goals from the plan include 1) Improve Access to Food, 2) Maintain Good Air Quality, 3) Support Carbon Reducing Energy Initiatives, 4) Reduce Waste to the Landfill, and 5) Reduce Water Consumption from Landscape and Irrigation. This will be an interactive and family-friendly event where participants can provide input on the plan. Staff will be present to answer any questions. The community can also provide input on the draft plan online through [Engagegj.org](https://engagegj.org) during the comment period from Friday, April 19 through Friday, May 17.

Jenny Nitzky, Sustainability Coordinator,
City of Grand Junction, 970-256-4059, gjcjity.org | [EngageGJ](https://engagegj.org)

The Suggestion Box

Do you have suggestions to upgrade our neighborhood? A new fun activity? Ready to help make them happen by volunteering? Send that on to us at granitefallsnews@gmail.com to be included in our Enews.

Some current suggestions:

Gardening club

Progressive Dinner

Art Walk in our neighborhood

Tool Share

Christmas cookie exchange

Skill Exchange

REMEMBER - Everything is Volunteer Powered, so volunteer to make it happen!



One suggestion was a Facebook page for the neighborhood. An alternative would be to utilize the newsletter differently. Besides the Quarterly ones, we could have shorter updates in between that can include short “letters to the editor” and suggestions about neighborhood topics. Looking for feed back on the Enews upgrade plan...wisewomanhood@gmail.com AND volunteers to help with the increased work....

Going On An Extended Trip/Adventure?

Be sure you think security. Tell your neighbors. Hold mail or have friends pick it up for you. Stop newspapers. Use timers to have lights go on and off. Leave some shades down - if they all are it looks like no one's home!And let's all keep our eyes open to be sure there's no hanky panky when our neighbors are out of town.

Activities & Groups to Join

- **Granite Falls Cares - New group forming.** Do you know of neighbors going through challenges and needing support? You yourself? Some ideas for our simple support: flowers, cards, meal drop-offs, cash for take out food, visits, energy work, drive to appointments, foot massages. If you'd like to help organize or know of a need, let Terra know at wisewomanhood@gmail.com and our forming team will offer support. Join us!
- **Colorado Mountain Club** - Neighbor Victor Ketellapper vkhome77@yahoo.com Founded in 1912, the Colorado Mountain Club is Colorado's community for mountain adventure, education, and conservation. Trips and training include hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, rock climbing and more. Learn more at www.cmc.org
- **Poker Club - New group forming** - contact Aaron Meckler: 303.324-4510 (text) or Aaron.meckler@gmail.com
- **Game Afternoon Club** - contact Jennifer Bradfield: Jennifer.bradfield@gmail.com
- **Foosball Club - New group forming** - contact Alan Dixon : allendixon46@gmail.com
- **Families w Kids Club** - contact: Elizabeth Brookmeyer: ebrookmeyer@gmail.com
- **Monthly Book Club** - neighbor Terra Rafael: wisewomanhood@gmail.com We might be ready for 2 book clubs! Please let me know if you'd like to join. #1 meets USUALLY the second Wednesday of the month in the evening. #2 could meet during the day perhaps. And YES! you are allowed into more than one book club!

GF Irrigation Water

Irrigation water will tentatively be available the week of April 22nd.

Yard Care Tips by Bob Mohler

Our local expert, Bob has kindly written tips for each season which are available in our [enews archive](#)

This issue, the focus is on Japanese Beetle infestation.

Japanese Beetles (*Popillia japonica* Newman) was discovered in Grand Junction in the summer of 2022 with last year's general infestation being 24 Road and Horizon Drive between G Road and H Road.



Japanese beetle larvae feed on roots of irrigated grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass and fescue as these are their preferred turf for egg laying. Japanese beetles are polyphagous (feeding on a variety of plants) and as such pose a threat to the agriculture in this area, especially fruit trees such as peaches and pears, but also the adults will feed on roses and other ornamentals (even potted plants) as well as vegetable crops.

Because of these threats, Mesa County has also asked local residents to aid in controlling the Japanese beetle through treatment of their lawns. To control these pests, use a product such as GrubEX (a Scott's product) available at box stores such as Home Depot. Apply in the spring (April) per directions on the package to kill the grubs/larva. Ads for this product state that it is not only good for controlling the larvae of Japanese beetles, but also European chafers, Green June beetles and other grubs for up to four months. The adults of the Japanese beetle are most abundant in early summer (from late June through August) so an April application of GrubEX should suffice.



HOA Committee Updates

DRC Design Review Committee

This is who approves changes in your landscape, exteriors of your property. They approve concept, drainage, fencing, shed, trees, and solar piping color. For example, some lots drain to front, some to back or front and others to the back. If drainage is blocked or improper it can cause pooling of water.

This volunteer committee does their best to turn over requests in 3-5 days or less to facilitate completion of your projects. If you'd like to help on the committee or have suggestions, contact Sandy, the Chair, at DRCGraniteFalls@gmail.com

For all the guidelines, see the link below.

<https://granitefallshoa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Design-Review-Guidelines03-28-23.pdf>

To apply for review:

<https://granitefallshoa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/HOA-DRG-Landscape-Check-list-Revised.pdf>

Beautification

This committee covers various topics to make Granite Falls more pleasing. Two current initiatives are Green Spaces (to eventually reduce grass and watering needs) and the Dark Skies outdoor lighting Initiative (to reduce unneeded lights at night for health and nature). If you're interested in working on either of these, or have suggestions, contact Sandy, the Chair, at BeautificationGraniteFalls@gmail.com

**REMEMBER - ALL OUR HOA POSTS ARE FILLED BY VOLUNTEERS!
WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HOW THINGS ARE RUN?
VOLUNTEER!**

HOA Basics

Information for new homeowners: <https://granitefallshoa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/New-Homeowner-packet-for-HOA.pdf>

For general HOA information: www.granitefallshoa.com

For newsletter articles, suggestions, corrections, updates:
granitefallsenews@gmail.com

To contact the Board of Directors: granitefallshoa8@gmail.com

For Design Review Committee: drcgranitefalls@gmail.com

Current Board of Directors

- President - Brian Langfitt
- Secretary - Amy Mohler
- Treasurer - Sam Marutzky
- Assistant Treasurer - Sandy Rhoades
- Member-at-Large - Todd Sanders