



Granite Falls E-Newsletter

Summer 2024

GF ENEWS Summer 2024

Enjoy! Here are the Contents -

GF Save the Dates

Spring Nesting in Natural Area

Local 4th of July Activities

Remove Noxious Russian Olives

Watering Tips

GF Activities & Groups to Join

Amphitheater - CO National Monument

GF HOA Report

HOA Basics

Happy Summer! Suggestions? Let us know!

Terra Rafael & Sam Marutzky

Co-Editors of Granite Falls Enews granitefallsnews@gmail.com



Save the Dates!

Help Restore our Natural Area

Want to help address the invasive Russian olives? We are looking for volunteers for a couple hours from 7-9am on July 20th to help cut down saplings and apply herbicide to help control them in our natural area.

Granite Falls Fall Clean Up

Join your neighbors for a fun and useful time cleaning up our neighborhood. Meet at the GF entrance, ready for yard work activities at 9 am, September 28.

Neighborhood Get-together

The Fall Neighborhood potluck party is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 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!

Why Close the Natural Area in the Spring? By Neighbor Bob Moehler

Visitors to our Granite Falls Natural Area have most likely noticed the sign closing the area to dogs basically through the spring season. One reason for this is that this is a time of nesting for ground nesting birds such as the western meadowlark and the Gambel's quail, both which inhabit our Natural Area. Descriptions of both are below via Wikipedia. Note: both birds can breed into July.



The western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) is a medium-sized icterid bird, about 8.5 inches in length. It nests on the ground in open grasslands across western and central North America. It feeds mostly on bugs but will also feed on seeds and berries.

Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*) is a small ground-dwelling bird in the New World quail family. It inhabits the desert regions of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Texas, and Sonora; also New Mexico-border Chihuahua and the Colorado River region of Baja California and are often abundant near desert streams, such as the one in our Natural Area.



JULY 4TH | 1:00PM
GRANITE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD

FOURTH *of* JULY

Family Parade

NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS AND FAMILIES WILL DECORATE THEIR WAGONS AND BIKES AND DRESS UP. JOIN US ON THE GRASSY AREA AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, OR WATCH FROM YOUR FRONT PORCH. THE PARADE WILL BEGIN ON KNOWLES CANYON AVE, PROCEED ON THE SIDEWALK THROUGH THE GRASSY AREA, DOWN MESCALERO AND BACK UP KNOWLES CANYON.

PARTICIPATING FAMILIES CAN MEET AT 2189 KNOWLES CANYON AVE AT 12:45- DRESSED AND DECORATED READY TO START PROMPTLY AT 1:00PM.

QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
EBROOKMEYER@GMAIL.COM

Local Fun for 4th of July

*****Colorado National Monument - Early morning, 4th of July, Colorado National Monument, Flag raising on top of Independence Monument**

John Otto could think of nothing better than to advertise Monument Canyon from a flag waving on top of the 450-foot tall Independence Monument. He worked day after day for several weeks pounding iron pipes and carving out footsteps into solid rock to make it possible for any brave soul to get to the top. After successfully getting to the top of Independence Monument for the first time on June 8, 1911, John Otto started his tradition of raising an American flag on top of Independence Monument every year on the Fourth of July.

Today, the Mesa County Technical Rescue Team climbs and raises the American flag just like John Otto did 101 years ago.

*****Grand Junction Parade-** Main street, 10 am

*****Granite Falls Parade-** 1pm, See details in flyer above.

*****Fireworks-** Lincoln Park Stadium's Suplizio Field. July 4. For July 4th - the baseball game will start at 4:05 p.m. with family activities followed by fireworks at 9:45 p.m..

Fruita fireworks are Wednesday, July 3, launched from James M. Robb State Park around sunset. Snooks Bottom Open Space will be closed to the public all day Wednesday. Residents should expect traffic impacts around Fruita that day and plan accordingly, according to the city of Fruita.

Highway 340 southbound going toward Colorado National Monument will be closed for the show, and traffic will be directed northbound toward I-70, the I-70 Frontage Road and Aspen Avenue. High traffic volume can be expected at the entrance to James M. Robb State Park, Jurassic Avenue and Raptor Road.

Removing Noxious Russian Olive Trees

By Neighbor Jenni Dixon

Did you know the Russian Olives we have growing in the natural area are actually on the Colorado noxious weed list as a class B noxious weed?

What is so bad about this tree? They are highly invasive. Russian-olive trees are a thorny, hard-wood tree that easily takes over riparian (river bank) corridors, choking out native cottonwoods, box elders, and willows. They out-compete other native vegetation, interfering with natural plant succession. These trees can be such an entangled mess they also interfere with creeks and canals impacting stream flow.

The tree can reach up to 30 feet with branches that have 1 to 2-inch thorns and will block the view of the monument as well as make walking through the natural area difficult for people and dogs.

To remove Russian olive trees you cannot just cut them down, but must apply an herbicide immediately afterwards to kill the roots.

Here is a link to a fact sheet with more information about Russian Olives. [Fact Sheet](#)

Want to help address the invasive Russian olives? We are looking for volunteers for a couple hours from 7-9am on July 20th to help cut down saplings and apply herbicide to help control them in our natural area.

Lawn Watering Tips

- Here are a few lawn watering tips for our climate and soils.
- Water as deeply and as infrequently as possible. This promotes deep roots.
- Apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per application, total 2-3 inches per week. (Set out a few flat-bottom containers to measure.)
- The best time to water is between 10 pm and 6 am.
- If you have runoff, cycle your watering with shorter times. Example two 15 min intervals spaced 30 min apart instead of one 30 min interval.
- A lawn cut at 3 inches will retain more water than a lawn cut at 2 inches.
- Aerate your lawn in the Spring
- Fertilize your lawn three times per year (March/April, late June, September)

These are from a local gardening expert (Masters in Horticulture) and the attached article from Colorado State University Extension Center.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Granite Falls HOA

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 : alldixon46@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!

COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION TO HOST A
CONCERT AT SADDLEHORN AMPITHEATER TO CELEBRATE THE
COMPLETION OF AN IMPORTANT PROJECT

Fruita, CO, (July 2, 2024)- The Colorado National Monument Association
(CNMA)
proudly announces the grand re-opening of the Saddlehorn Amphitheater
and Trail
with an unforgettable event.

Thanks to everyone who made this project possible. Many donors,
foundations and
community members along with Colorado National Monument and CNMA
contributed to the renovations of the Saddlehorn Amphitheater and the
connector trail.

The amphitheater will be used for National Park Service-led educational
programs
and ranger talks that will reach thousands of students and visitors a year.
The trail is
getting the finishing touches now and will soon be accessible for all to enjoy
this
space.

Experience a monumental evening at the revamped Saddlehorn
Amphitheater,
featuring a live performance by the talented multi-instrumentalist Jeneve
Rose
Mitchell. At just 15, Jeneve dazzled the nation as a top 14 finalist on
American Idol's
farewell season. Her performances are a delightful blend of musical
genres.
This event is not-to-be-missed. Please find out more and get your tickets at
www.coloradonma.org. Tickets are limited, so get yours today.

HOA News

Hello Friends and Neighbors

I would like to take this time to update all of you as to what your hard-working, dedicated HOA board has been up to recently. This will be the first part in a series of articles. First off, the three major responsibilities that an HOA board is tasked with are:

1. Maintain common area elements of the community.
2. Ensure compliance with governing documents.
3. Conduct the financial business of the association

To fulfill the first item, we have several sub-committees to assist us. There is an architectural control committee (ACC), a design review committee (DRC), and beautification/natural area committees. Other committees work on the irrigation system, prepare newsletters, and keep the website up to date.

The second issue falls to the ACC and the DRC. The ACC is tasked with making sure the builders submit an approved set of plans prior to breaking ground. This ensures that a number of items (soil tests, engineered foundations, size of house, exterior colors, setbacks from property lines, etc.) are all in accordance with building department and developer guidelines. This helps ensure the overall quality of the houses in our beautiful Granite Falls neighborhood.

The DRC assists builders and homeowners know and follow the guidelines as set forth in the Design Review Guidelines (DRG) and the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R) documents. These documents are a combination of city and county rules as well as items that the developer wanted included to complete their vision of the property. These documents were in place before the first shovel of dirt was dug to start Granite Falls. It is the responsibility of the builders as well as all of us homeowners to be familiar with and follow all these rules. You

should have been presented with a copy of all of these documents prior to purchasing your home. We also list them on our Granite Falls website if you need to reread them.

Some of the items the board hears about are RVs not parked correctly, cars and RVs parked on gravel areas, cars and RVs parked on City streets for longer than 72 hours, roof vents and conduit not painted to match the roof, and improper storage sheds, to name a few. The storage of RVs was implemented by the developer to allow people with RVs to store them but in a way to lessen their visual impact. The painting of vents and proper storage sheds was also added to protect the visual quality of the neighborhood. The other items listed are City rules and can be enforced by City employees.

Another issue is making sure that all exterior lighting shines vertically and not horizontally (except for motion activated security lighting). This was put in place to protect the serenity of the neighbors while also helping preserve the night sky. This committee is also where you need to submit any landscaping plans or changes to your plans.

Next time I'll continue telling you about other committees as well as discuss the other major tasks your HOA board is responsible for.

Till next time,
Brian Langfitt, HOA Board President

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 earlier newsletters, 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