

Granite Falls News

Where Community Comes First | Fall 2025



Goats, Greenspace and Safety

I am writing to you today about the goats! I hope many of you went down and watched them and enjoyed seeing them control weeds in that area! This happened for a number of reasons.

First off, we were concerned about the invasive species that were thriving in the natural area. Those plants are (but not limited to) kochia, tamarisk, and Russian olive. On top of all this we wanted to control some of the overgrowth of this area. We tried mowing, but there are rocks and stumps in this area that were hard to see and damaged the mowers. The next option was to spray with weed control. I looked at the options that could control these invasives and it was obvious to me that it would take some pretty nasty poisons. I was not willing to do that!

Several years ago we discussed using goats. We seriously considered using them but it never happened. Then this year the topic came up again and Sandy Rhoades, vice president of your HOA board, said she would check into the goats again. She reached out to Studt Farms, and they informed us that they had to remove their goats from another project because of the fires. They could move their goats here, and I must say at a rate of around 25% of previous bids. We decided it was time to give the goats a try!

Some of the things we were aware of were the kochia was ready to seed out, and once it seeds out it can multiply greatly(!) where ever it is. Plus the goats when they digest the Russian Olive (and maybe the kochia) their seeds cannot germinate. We wanted to do something about the kochia before it started seeding. So timing was definitely an issue. We decided to give it a try and I must say that I am impressed with their "work." Not only did they eradicate the kochia, they mowed the weeds, and they trimmed the Russian olives as high as they could reach. This also allows us to more easily access the Russian olives, which will be cut and treated with an anti-growth paint by a team of volunteers.

The goats' presence was not only beneficial with their appetite, they also gave us a gift that keeps on giving! They spread goat manure all over the place. My research tells me that goat manure is a very beneficial compost. It will help us replant the area with a grass that can thrive and inhibit the growth of some of these invasive plants. This is a win-win! We are considering using the goats in the future, I would appreciate to hear from all of you about your thought of using goats and whether you think the goats are a good option.

We recently installed 'No Trespassing' signs – one at the Sieber Canyon Court cul-de-sac and one on the northern edge of our property. We have been experiencing some vandalism in the area and these signs will give us more power if we need to pursue future legal action. We have observed (and reported) a vehicle doing donuts on the HOA grass, motorcycles and electric bikes riding through the natural area, drug use, and firewood gathered for a campfire in the natural area at the height of seasonal fire restrictions. We installed the signs to discourage the individuals who are misusing the area. We do want homeowners and responsible people to utilize the area. So, if you are a homeowner, please disregard the sign and enjoy the natural area and all of the wildlife.

Thank you,
Brian Langfitt
Board President

Irrigation Update

The Irrigation Committee met in August to discuss potential improvements for maintaining the irrigation system. The committee reviewed the maintenance history of each pump and made recommendations for improving the maintenance schedule:

Recommendation	Status
Purchase spare pumps – 7.5HP and 10.0HP	Completed
Replace both check/foot valves at first opportunity	Completed
Hydrovac cisterns, piping, and canal box during off season. Schedule with contractor.	Scheduled during off-season
Cut out box at canal on downstream side during off season	Plan/schedule
Rebuild screen and repair flushing system on HO cistern during off season	Off season
Inspect vents, zone valves prior to end of season	On going
Lock pump house	On going
Purchase shed for irrigation supplies	Completed

The most important recommendation was to purchase two new backup pumps, identical to the current pumps, for when a pump becomes inoperable. Both pumps have been purchased and are being made ready for installation when needed. We are learning that, due to water quality, the pumps need significant annual maintenance, ie., new seals/packing, new impellers, etc. Most maintenance can be done during the off season, but if a pump goes down during the season, ordering parts and making repairs can take weeks. With backups ready for reinstallation we can keep the system running with minimal downtime. The 10 hp pump purchased in 2022 will be sold. It is not an exact replacement and is designed to leak, making a mess in the pump house and creating electrical hazards.

We have also purchased a locked storage shed (next to the pump house) for the extra pumps, hoses and spare parts. This will help us keep the pump house area neat and tidy.

The annual Stormwater Inspection was completed in September.

Due to the quality of water in the canal, we accumulate a large amount of silt in our system, starting at the canal intake. The intake design exacerbates the problem because the inlet is lower than the bottom of the canal and it accumulates silts. We are proposing a change in the design to allow more flow through. We are just in the planning stages. We need to discuss a plan with the subdivision to our north since we share the same intake, and with Redlands Water and Power before we proceed with construction. Stay tuned.

Thank you,
Sam Marutzky

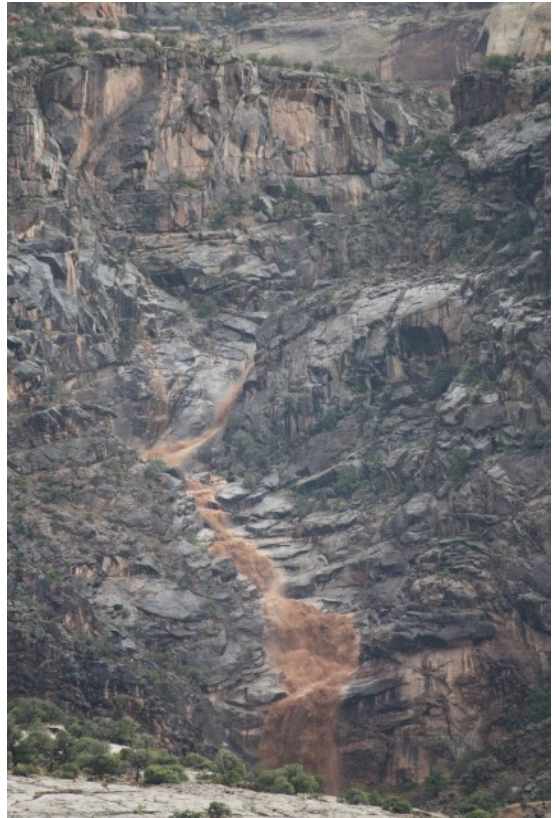
Need fall advice for your yard? Check out Bob Moehler's 2022 article, "[Tips for Fall Plant Care.](#)" You'll find a host of lawn and garden articles in past newsletters on the [Granite Falls HOA website](#) and information on the [Mesa County Extension website](#), where you'll also find local Master Gardeners offering their expertise!



Rains to Remember

You can count on mother nature to keep us humble, whether it's 100+ degree temperatures, high winds, or most recently, rain and hail.

We'll all remember Thursday, September 4, 2025, for the torrential downpour that lasted seemingly forever. Having lived here on and off since 1963, I can't remember anything like it. I kept thinking ... it's going to stop soon. Our gutters were overflowing, rivers of water were running down the streets, lightning was flashing too close for comfort, Granite Falls was raging. About 5:00 p.m. I drove over to check the detention pond. There was still about a foot of space before the water would reach the top of the screen on the outlet box. You could still see the street crown. But by 6:30 p.m., the outlet box was under water and the water was up to the fence and overflowing into the street. Fortunately, the rain was ending.



The thunderstorm had stalled over the Redlands, so it wasn't widespread. Friends in Fruita and downtown Grand Junction said they got just a trace. The official National Weather Service (NWS) station at Walker Field also showed a "trace." There are no official NWS stations in the Redlands, but a neighbor's rain gauge just south of us registered 2.75", and the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), co-sponsored by NOAA, has a station immediately to our east across South Camp that read 2.56". To put this in perspective, according to the NWS, the maximum daily precipitation at the Walker Field station between 1900 and 2006 was 1.87", which occurred on September 22, 1941.

We were fortunate. We experienced mud in the streets and some damage to landscaping. When Goat Draw to our east overflowed, it took with it some landscaping rock along our fence line. Our neighboring subdivisions did not fare as well. Homes flooded, streets were blocked, and landscaping was damaged. The canal was shut down for almost a week ... not that we needed more water on our lawns.

A shared experience seems to bring out the best in us. Quickly, folks came out to check on their neighbors. People swept the streets. The fire department helped flood victims across South Camp. Redlands Water and Power and City of Grand Junction crews cleared debris from roads and canals and swept streets. What a great place we live in!

The Granite Falls **Afternoon Book Club** is looking for neighbors to join our thoughtful discussions! Meet friends and have fun over snacks and a good read.

The group meets 2:00-4:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. Visit on November 12 and check it out!

November's novel is *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach.



Granite Falls Activities & Groups

Grand Junction Gardening Club - Jenni Dixon: jennidixon222@gmail.com

Quarterly Enews Co-editor - Sam Marutzky: smartz1953@gmail.com

Poker Club - Aaron Meckler: 303.324-4510 (text)
or aaron.meckler@gmail.com

Game Afternoon Club - Jennifer Bradfield: Jennifer.bradfield@gmail.com

Foosball Club - Alan Dixon: allendixon46@gmail.com

Families w Kids Club - Elizabeth Brookmeyer: ebrookmeyer@gmail.com

Monthly Book Club - Jana Smith: jlcrain858@gmail.com

Meets second Wednesday of the month; Afternoon and evening groups

Thank you to **Todd Sanders, Jeff Howard**, and helpers for removing exotics from the natural area and planting drought-tolerant seed.

Thank you to **Jenni Dixon, Cathy Langfitt**, and **Sandy Rhoades** for leading the charge to beautify the entrance to our lovely neighborhood!

Thank you to the **Nieslanik's** for caring for the Granite Falls Little Library!

Thank you, **Sam Marutzky**, for keeping the irrigation system running and coordinating the newsletter!



HOA Basics

New Homeowner Packet (PDF)

Granite Falls HOA website

Past newsletters

Email the Board of Directors: granitefallshoa8@gmail.com

Design Review Committee: drcgranitefalls@gmail.com

Board of Directors

President - Brian Langfitt

Vice President - Sandy Rhoades

Secretary - Amy Mohler

Treasurer - Rita Felde

Member-at-Large - Todd Sanders

Granite Falls News

Suggestions? Let us know!

Sam Marutzky and Rita Sanders, co-editors of Granite Falls News

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