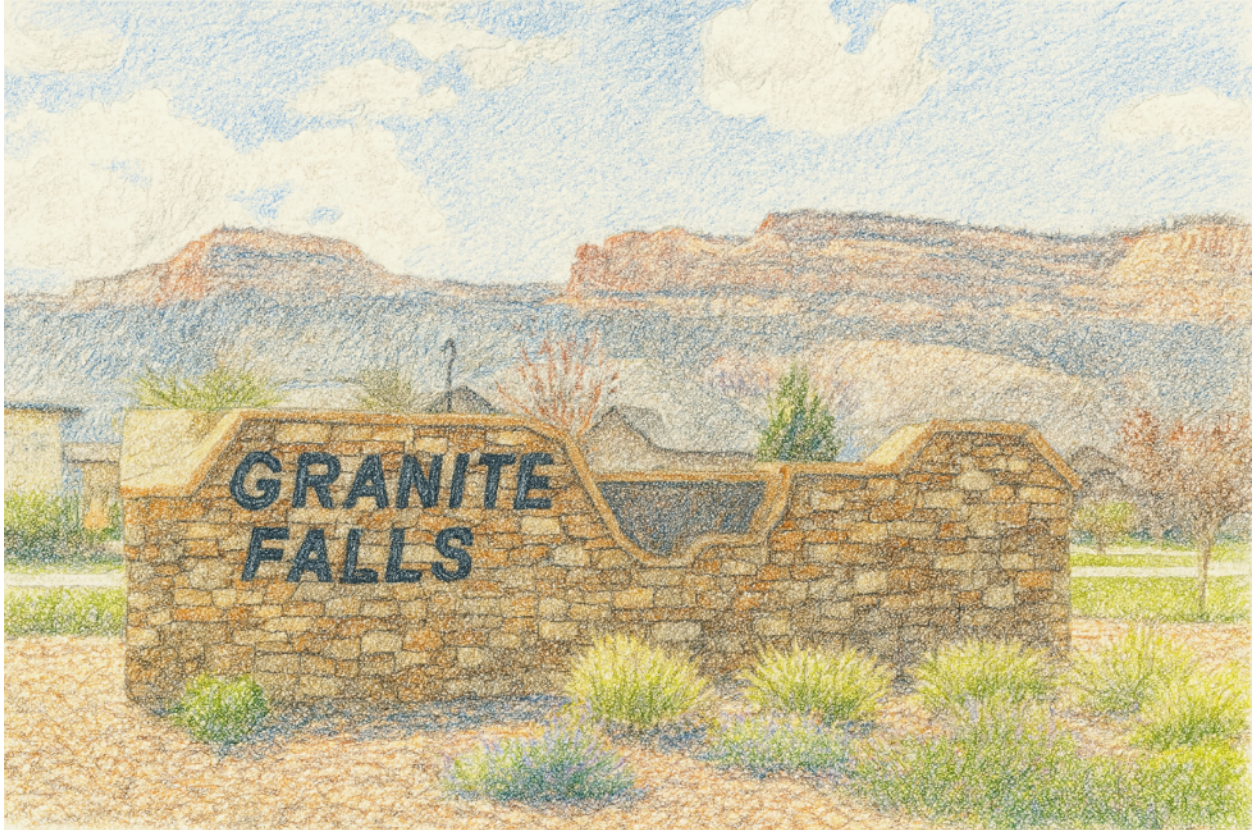


Granite Falls News

Where Community Comes First | Spring 2026



Introducing Panorama Point

Yes, it's true, there is a point in our subdivision with exceptional views, tranquility, and wildlife viewing; or just a good place to relax and read a book. We recently discovered this gem in our neighborhood while clearing brush. The spot was so striking that we worked to make it accessible to all HOA members. This just might be the best spot in the HOA natural area.



Where: From the cul de sac on Sieber Canyon Court, walk south across the open grass area (opposite the natural area). There you will see a trail that climbs up a small rise about 40 yards to a point. Those feeling a bit more adventurous can walk a little farther along the trail to a log beneath a large old cottonwood snag with signs of primary cavity nesters (e.g., woodpeckers).

What: Cop a squat on the large rock at the point or on a log under the snag. You can also bring your portable chair for a bit more comfort. We are adding more seating. Continue to look for this development.

Views: Panorama Point offers exceptional views of the Book Cliffs, Riggs Hill, Colorado National Monument, and the Granite Falls HOA natural area. The point is a great place to contemplate the time that shaped this unique landscape surrounding Granite Falls subdivision.

In 1900, Field Museum paleontologist Elmer Riggs discovered the first-known skeleton of *Brachiosaurus altithorax* on what is now known

as Riggs Hill. This 150-million-year-old specimen, a massive, long-necked sauropod, was one of the largest dinosaurs ever discovered at the time, featuring remarkably long arms.

The Colorado National Monument is evidence of millions of years of change. It was discovered by John Otto, who began advocating for the protection of the area in 1906, ultimately leading President Taft to establish the monument on May 24, 1911. Sheer-walled canyons cut deep into sandstone and granite–gneiss–schist rock formations. This area of desert land high on the Colorado Plateau, with pinyon and juniper forests, is something to ponder. We are fortunate to live just below its beauty.

The sun highlights the Book Cliffs in the evening hours. From near Panorama Point you can see Douglas Pass on Colorado Highway 139, which tops out at 8,200 feet through the Book Cliffs mountain range between Grand Junction and Rangely. Binoculars help in locating the pass.

The HOA natural area is teeming with wildlife. A quiet watch could reveal deer, Gambel's quail, turkeys, bobcats, and more. Evenings are a great time to catch the sunset and wildlife moving about, nibbling their last meal of the day or getting ready to sleep in roost trees.

Wildlife: Bring your binoculars, scanning ears and eyes, or at least a good book. With a little patience you might see a number of wildlife that make this point so special. Birds and deer are regularly visible from the point that overlooks the grass open space and natural area across the cul de sac. Numerous birds fill the air with a cacophony of sounds, especially during mornings and evenings. Gambel's quail are regulars in the area and have a wonderful call. Listen carefully, you are likely to hear wild turkeys at a distance clucking and gobbling. At sundown, you may see wild turkeys fly up to their roost in the nearby cottonwood trees along Lime Kiln Wash. Recent wildlife observations include mule deer, ground squirrels, chipmunks, and the following bird species. Can you add to the list?

- American Robin
- House Finch

- Black-capped Chickadee
- Black-billed Magpie
- Northern Flicker
- Gambel's Quail
- Dark-eyed Junco
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Spotted Towhee
- Mallard
- Merriam's Wild Turkey
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Mourning Dove
- Cooper's Hawk
- Western Bluebird
- Red-winged Blackbird

Volunteer: Panorama Point was developed under the volunteer work of the Natural Area and Beautification committees and support of Granite Falls HOA Board of Directors. The work was done at nearly no cost to the HOA members. Maintenance and improvement of the Natural Area depend on volunteers. The natural area management goals (mitigate fire hazard, enhance habitat for wildlife, and maximize benefits and minimum cost to HOA members) can be best met with a team of volunteers. Please let us know if you can contribute a few hours every now and again or want to donate funds for hand tool purchase and maintenance.

Enjoy!
Todd Sanders
Board President

Irrigation Update

Hello Friends and Neighbors, we are nearing the start of another irrigation season, and this season may bring us new challenges. As you know, our winter has been very dry. Redlands Water and Power (RWP), our irrigation water supplier, discussed the possibility of water rationing at their annual meeting in February. There are no firm plans yet, but we will do our part by continuing our normal watering schedule (see below).

Last year we purchased two new pumps as backups and rebuilt both existing pumps. We now have a shed for extra supplies and will be ready to swap pumps if needed. Also, RWP replaced its aging pumps that fill our canal.

Water will start flowing in our canal on Monday, April 13. Our head gate will initially be closed to avoid the debris flow and let the canal clear. We estimate our system will be operational on April 15. PTL Landscaping will perform the startup, including inspecting the system for leaks and flushing. Please keep your main valve closed until we complete the startup. At that time, we will send out an email and change the irrigation sign at the neighborhood entrance to ON.

Watering Schedule

- **Wednesday will be a No-Watering day.** The pumps will be shut down as necessary, and we will schedule maintenance on this day to the extent possible. This will reduce wear and tear on our pumps and save electricity costs.
- **Even House Numbers** - Water on Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday
- **Odd House Numbers** - Water on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday
- **Drippers** can run any day of the week except Wednesday.
- **Please do not water** during the heat of the day and be sure to minimize runoff.

If you are using domestic (potable) water, this schedule does not apply.

Thank you,

Sam Marutzky

Irrigation Committee Chair

Beautification Committee Update

The Beautification Committee met in February and identified the most crucial projects for 2026. We purchased two metal benches for the neighborhood and are looking to buy a couple more. If you would like to donate a bench for the green spaces in Granite Falls Subdivision, please reach out to the board. Suggested materials would be stone, concrete and steel or iron for durability and weather resistance. We also purchased a pop-up canopy for neighborhood gatherings.



Robert Mohler provides spring tips for growing vegetables, lawns, ornamental trees and shrubs, and fruit trees in our high desert climate.

[Read the Article \(PDF\)](#)

Granite Falls Activities & Groups

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

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

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

Mahjong Club - Molly Fitzpatrick: molly.leorders@gmail.com

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

Monthly Book Club - Meets second Wednesday of the month

Daytime Group - Jana Smith: jlcrain858@gmail.com

Evening Group - Molly Fitzpatrick: molly.leorders@gmail.com

Attention aspiring and experienced **Mahjong** players! A new neighborhood club meets 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. Players take turns hosting. A lesson is offered once each quarter for new players.

An evening club is possible with enough interest and someone willing to be the evening contact. Teachers can offer evening lessons to help launch the group.

Email [Molly Fitzpatrick](mailto:molly.leorders@gmail.com) with your skill level (do you need a lesson?) and your preference for either afternoon or evening.



**MAHJONG
CLUB**

All Levels Welcome!

— LEARN • PLAY • CONNECT —

News to Note

Wildlife Area closed to Dogs: Thank you for not taking your pets into the natural area north of the cul de sac between April 1 and June 30. Let wildlife do their thing without disturbance.

Neighborhood Work Day & Social: Many hands make light work! May 9, 9:00 a.m. at entrance. Join us at 4:00 p.m. for a potluck in the Sieber Canyon Court cul de sac with the city party trailer! (More info to come.)

Fourth of July Parade: Decorate your preferred mode of transportation and join us a few minutes before 10:00 a.m. at the neighborhood entrance. (More info to come.)

Reverse 911: The Grand Junction Regional Communications Center has an Emergency and Community Notification System to quickly provide essential information during emergencies such as evacuations, flood, gas leaks and more. [Sign up online](#) to receive alerts via phone, text or email.

Annual Meeting Recap: Residents elected incumbent Todd Sanders and new director Jeff Howard to the board. Directors selected Todd Sanders President at the first quarterly board meeting. Other officers remain the same. [Minutes on the HOA website.](#)

[Read the Board Meeting Recap](#)
[by Amy Mohler](#)



HOA Basics

New Homeowner Packet (PDF)

Granite Falls HOA website

Past Newsletters

Email the Board of Directors: granitefallshoa8@gmail.com

Email the Design Review Committee: drcgranitefalls@gmail.com

Board of Directors

President - Todd Sanders

Vice President - Sandy Rhoades

Secretary - Amy Mohler

Treasurer - Rita Felde

Member-at-Large - Jeff Howard

Granite Falls News

Suggestions? Let us know!

Rita Sanders, Editor of Granite Falls News: ritalyns@yahoo.com