



# MINTURN FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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## Planning Commission Openings

There are currently three vacancies on the Minturn Planning Commission needing to be filled.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Applications can be found [here](#) or picked up in person at Minturn Town Hall, 302 Pine Street 2nd Floor Town Offices. Please submit applications to: Town of Minturn, Attention Madison Harris, Planner 1, PO Box 309, Minturn, CO 81645 by mail or in person at Town Hall, 302 Pine Street, Minturn, CO 81645; or email to [planner1@minturn.org](mailto:planner1@minturn.org).

Applicants must have been a resident of the Town of Minturn for a minimum of one (1) year, must maintain residency in the Town through their term of office, and be eligible to register to vote in the Town of Minturn. The commission meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The five member (plus one alternate) board is responsible for the orderly development of the town and like most planning commissions, is visionary in its approach to the long-term built environment of the community. The Commission has many tasks including but not limited to reviewing the design of new structures, remodels, landscaping plans, architectural and aesthetic matters, recommendations to the Minturn Town Council concerning variances, subdivisions, conditional use permits, and planned unit developments. At all times the Commission seeks to foster a fair and transparent public process.

The terms of the Planning Commission appointments are two years, which will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and end on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The Minturn Town Council will conduct applicant interviews during its session on Wednesday, March 20th, 2024 starting at 5:30 p.m.

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## Upcoming Municipal Election

[Minturn's Municipal Election](#) will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. To vote, you must be a Minturn resident (for more than 20 days prior to the election), and you must be a registered voter. In-person voting will take place from 7am - 7pm on Tuesday, April 2nd, at Minturn Town Hall (302 Pine St, Minturn). If you wish to vote early or cannot vote in person on election day, you must complete an Absentee Ballot application and submit it no later than Friday, March 29th. The actual absentee "ballot" can be turned in up until 7pm on election day. If you are mailing your ballot, please note that it must be RECEIVED (not postmarked) by election day (April 2nd, 2024).



Absentee ballot applications are available now. Absentee ballots will be mailed on March 11th (for all applications received), and can be mailed back or submitted in person at Minturn Town Hall (but must be RECEIVED by the deadline). Anyone requesting an absentee ballot application after March 11th can still do so in person and the ballot will be issued upon receipt of the absentee ballot application. If you wish to vote by mail you must apply for an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots can be obtained by stopping by the Town Clerk's office, 302 Pine Street, Minturn, OR can be downloaded [HERE](#). Absentee ballots cannot be issued until application has been made.

For questions or more information contact the Town Clerk, Jay Brunvand, at 970-445-2423, or via email at [treasurer@minturn.org](mailto:treasurer@minturn.org).

### CANDIDATES:

Earle Bidez and Gorden (Hawkeye) Flaherty are running for Mayor.

Town Council candidates include Eric Gotthelf, Brian Rodine, Justin Selbach, Tom Priest, Robert Creasy and Gusty Kanakis.

**Election Judges Needed:** The Town of Minturn is in need of (3) three election judges for the municipal election on April 2nd. Requirements noted below. To apply / sign up to be an election judge, please contact Jay Brunvand (970-445-2423, [treasurer@minturn.org](mailto:treasurer@minturn.org)), or stop by Town Hall and speak with Jay or Cindy.

### Election Judge Requirements (per CRS 1-6-101)

1. Date of service is 4/2/24
2. 6:30am to finish (normally about 9pm) Must be willing and able to serve the entire day start to finish.
3. Pay is \$175 for the day, plus meals (light breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

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## Minturn Candidate Forum

SAVE THE DATE! Minturn residents are officially invited to the 2024 Minturn Candidate Forum. Join the Town of Minturn and our 2024 municipal election candidates on **Tuesday, March 5th at 5:30pm**. The forum will provide an opportunity to learn more about our candidates, and offer a chance to ask questions. We will have an independent moderator for the event, and the forum will be recorded with the video footage provided after, for those unable to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. More details to follow soon. Updates will be posted at [www.minturn.org](http://www.minturn.org).

## Zoning Survey - A public process for everyone!

Minturn is currently going through a Zoning Code update. This project is known as Minturn Forward. As part of the code update the Town would like to solicit feedback via a survey and a collection of Public Open Houses. The survey will go live on February 16, 2024 and an eblast will be sent out with the link for respondents to access. The schedule for the Open Houses will also be added to [this](#) webpage. Please contact the Town or drop by town offices during business hours if you would like a paper copy of the survey. There will be printed copies on the information table in the town hall lobby. The survey closes on March 22, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.



## Job Opening—Code Enforcement/Outreach and Building Permit Specialist:

The Town of Minturn is currently seeking a Code Enforcement/Outreach and Building Permit Specialist. This position is twofold and will develop a streamlined process for code enforcement across all areas of the Minturn Municipal Code. Teach community members about regulations, build public communication, and outreach strategies, and respond to citizen inquiries concerning regulatory compliance. Coordinate with internal departments for education and code enforcement needs related to all areas of the Minturn Municipal code. Issues citations and initiates follow-up compliance checks in the field as necessary, consistent with the organization's values and mission statement. Additionally, this position will perform the administrative duties related to building permit processing.

Pay range is \$27.05 to \$31.25/hr, DOQ. Benefits include Paid Time Off, 401K with 4% employer match, generous insurance coverage for medical, dental and vision (Employer pays all monthly insurance premiums), free membership to the Minturn Fitness Center, and employee housing available if needed (\$1200/month one-bedroom employee rental apartment available, utilities included). More information including the full job description, employment application and contact information can be found [HERE](#).

## Please slow down in Minturn - Let's be the safest community in the county!

Please watch your speed coming through Town. Many drivers enter town at excessively high speeds, putting themselves and others in danger. In addition to the potential repercussions of a speeding or careless driving citation, the consequences could be far more severe. **DID YOU KNOW** that in Colorado 46% of traffic fatalities are due to speed. And **DID YOU ALSO KNOW?**...

- If a pedestrian is struck, they have a 90% chance of surviving at 20 mph
- That goes down to 60% at 30 mph
- That goes down to 20% at 45 mph



## Eagle Valley Wildland—Year End Report

Threat from wildfire continues to increase. Here is what our local Eagle Valley Wildland is doing about it (hint: they're amazing!):

### [Eagle Valley Wildland Year End Report](#)

Eagle Valley Wildland (EVW) is an intergovernmental collaborative between Eagle County, Eagle River FPD, Greater Eagle FPD, and Gypsum FPD. Resulting from the recognition of Colorado's fire history and the presence of a growing wildfire threat within Eagle County, the EVW program was formed in August 2019. The program has continued to evolve and currently employs five full time staff dedicated to response, planning, mitigation, and community education. EVW is responsible for fire management activities across 831 square miles of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), rural communities, forest, and rangeland. To accomplish this, the program functions as a pool of subject matter experts to coordinate pre, during, and post incident activities between the emergency response agencies, communities, and members of the public across its jurisdiction.

## Wintering Wildlife and Wildlife Safety

### Do you know these [3 tips to respect wildlife](#)?

- 1) Observe wildlife from a distance. Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to wild animals and can cause them to change their behavior. You are too close if your presence or actions cause wildlife to alter their normal habits.
- 2) Never feed wildlife, whether intentionally or unintentionally.
- 3) Store food and trash securely.

There have been recent reports of moose and mountain lions spotted in the area. For more information on how to stay safe, and what to do if you experience an encounter, please visit the following pages.

### [In Mountain Lion Territory: What to Know and Do](#)

### [Safety and Moose Behavior](#)

## MFC—New Meditation Workshops

Do you want to learn how to meditate? How to harness all the benefits? Start off every week mentally and physically renewed? Then come to the MFC on Sunday evenings, starting February 25th, for a weekly meditation workshop. Classes will be every Sunday at 5:30pm. FREE for active MFC members. \$10 Drop-in for Non-Members. For more information, visit [www.minturnfitnesscenter.com](http://www.minturnfitnesscenter.com).

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## Radon Awareness

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive and toxic gas that forms from the decay of uranium and radium in the soil. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States (behind only smoking) and is harmful in high concentrations. It can seep into buildings through cracks and gaps in a building's foundation. Indoor concentrations tend to be higher during the winter due to a lack of natural ventilation when heating your building. It is estimated that 50% of homes in Colorado have high radon levels. The only way to know if your home is safe is to do radon testing.



Walking Mountains has free radon test kits! You can see if your exposure levels are higher than the EPA recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter, a measurement of the concentration of radioactive particles in air). You can pick up test kits at the following locations:

- Walking Mountains Science Center – 318 Walking Mountains Ln, Avon
- Eagle County Environmental Health Desk – 551 Broadway St, Eagle
- Eagle County Public Health. 100 W. Beaver Creek Blvd #107, Avon. Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm
- If you are unable to pick up a test kit at any of these locations, please call 970.328.8777 to talk about your options for receiving a kit.

Walking Mountains will help guide you through the process of testing, finding a contractor to install a mitigation system, and help assist you with our rebate program so you can receive some money back for installing a radon mitigation system. *\*A Home Energy Assessment through Walking Mountains is required to qualify for any rebates. More information can be found [HERE](#).*

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## Business Licensing and Short Term Rental Updates

We'd like to share an update to our business licensing fees, effective January 1st. In an effort to support our local businesses the Town has reduced most business license fees for the 2024-2025 fiscal season. ALL Minturn businesses (whether a commercial location or a home business) will now fall under the same business license rate of \$75. This will be the same fee for snowplow contractor licenses. For businesses (such as snowplow operators) that may only operate 6 months or less within the year - a prorated license (half price) will be available. For any year-round business, the annual fee will be \$75. **Our business license fiscal period (and renewal period) will remain the same. Licenses are valid from April 1st of the current year through March 31st of the following year.**

Updates have also been made to our short term rental licensing fees, effective January 1st. In an effort to be fair and equitable, we are transitioning to a tiered rate system. The new Short Term Rental Licenses fees will be \$300 PER BEDROOM (Or sleeping area). This change will be effective for the upcoming renewal season. Our short term rental license fiscal period (and renewal period) will remain the same. Licenses are valid from April 1st of the current year through March 31st of the following year. More information about business licensing and short term rental licensing can be found [HERE](#).

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## Minturn Scholarship Fund—Open Applications

With funding from the Battle Mountain Development, The Town of Minturn is pleased to offer academic scholarships to qualifying residents on an annual basis.

The purpose of the Scholarship Fund is to award educational scholarships for the benefit of Minturn residents based on academic merit and other relevant criteria.

**The deadline for submitting an application is April 1, 2024 by 5pm. APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** You must be a Minturn resident to qualify. Applications should be dropped off in person at Minturn Town Hall (302 Pine St), or mailed to the address below. If mailed, the application must be RECEIVED by the deadline (not postmarked by), so please keep that in mind if you are mailing your application. More information can be found [HERE](#).

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## Community Dinners & Help Needed

The Minturn Community Fund will once again be hosting winter Community Potluck Dinners in 2024. These dinners are designed to help connect with friends and neighbors during the winter months, when there are less social events happening. The dinners will be held the second Monday of January, February and March (and possibly April - TBD) from 5:30 – 7pm, with themes to be announced month to month. If you are interested in helping with the dinners (setup, teardown, cleanup, etc), please contact Jen Pace at 970-393-0364.



- The January dinner was held on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The February dinner was held on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>
- Remaining dinners will be held on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and possibly Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> (April is TBD).

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### MCF WEBSITE HELP NEEDED:

Additionally, the Minturn Community Fund is looking for volunteer help with their website. The time required would be minimal (up to a few hours per month). If you have experience with website work and would like to help out, please contact Diana Scherr at 970-376-4445.