



# MINTURN NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

## TOWN TREE LIGHTING & GIVING TREE



The Town of Minturn's annual Tree Lighting Celebration will take place **Friday, December 1st from 6 – 7pm**. Please note, the recent fall resident notifications (door hanger notices) had the incorrect date. The fall resident notifications had the date as Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event will be on Friday, 12/1.

Join us for caroling, hot cocoa, kids Christmas trivia, a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and of course the lighting of the tree.

Once again this year, the Minturn Community fund will be organizing **"The Giving Tree"** at the Town's annual Tree Lighting. The concept is simple: if you so choose, pick from a number of ornaments hanging on the gigantic lighted tree and help enrich the holiday season of many of our neighbors. Each ornament will include a holiday wish list of a Minturn kid, the needs of our Minturn seniors, or - new this year – a way to help purchase a holiday dinner for our very own local heroes: Minturn's veterans. Be neighbors helping neighbors...come to the tree lighting and learn more! If you can't make it to the tree lighting, more information about how to help will be posted following the event.

Some of our downtown retailers will also be offering specials and holiday festivities before and after the tree lighting. Holy Toledo will be staying open until 7pm. Additional information at [www.minturn.org](http://www.minturn.org).

## CHRISTMAS TREE BONFIRE AND TREE DROPOFF

The Town of Minturn Annual Christmas Tree Bonfire will take place on Friday, January 5th, from 6-7:30pm at upper Little Beach Park. The Town will be providing hot cocoa and supplies for s'mores. In addition to the main bonfire, a smaller (kids) bonfire will be available for s'mores roasting. ERFPD will be on hand to supervise the fires.

Regarding tree dropoff - You may start dropping off trees at upper Little Beach Park anytime starting January 1st (you may see a small pile already started, just outside the parking area gate above the amphitheater). You may drop off until the bonfire on the 5th. You can also drop off the night of the event, just bring your tree directly to the bonfire. Please drop off prior to 7pm.

Regarding pickups - Our Public Works team will be picking up trees where possible, based on need - from January 2nd - January 5th. If you can drop off your tree, please do so. If you cannot (only seniors or those who need assistance), we will pick it up. However, due to snow plowing demands and due to being short-staffed, we are asking that residents try to drop off their trees at the bonfire location vs. having them picked up. Pickups will occur through Friday morning the 5th (**reminder that trees MUST be curbside to be picked up. No exceptions!**).

Any questions, please contact Cindy Krieg (970-445-2415, [events@minturn.org](mailto:events@minturn.org)).

## UPDATED SNOW REMOVAL PLAN

The 2019/20 Winter season was the first year of Minturn's Snow Removal Plan. During the original approval process in 2019, the fluid nature of this document was identified to be ongoing - changes will continue to be made to improve the snow removal process and experience. This update is a continuation of that process which includes the allowance of hand shoveling snow from sidewalks onto town-owned roads between the hours of 4:00AM to 7:00AM in alignment with the snow removal street schedule. This new measure (Resolution 30, Series 2023) is currently being considered by Town Council. If approved, an ordinance will be required to change the MMC and allow this activity. The second reading will take place at the Wednesday 11/15 Town Council meeting. Residents who wish to take place in the discussion can attend in person or virtually on 11/15. The full updated snow removal plan can be found [HERE](#) and in the Residents section of the town website.

Additional items that will not be included in the plan but rather are operational changes made in the field or informational efforts include:

- No Parking Pine Street & Boulder St (Norman to Toledo) starting at 8:00AM as requested by a town resident;
- Information to residents regarding the freeze/thaw cycle which includes water running down all town streets;
  - Shade caused by trees and tall buildings exacerbates this issue by re-freezing the thawed water

## MCF SHOVEL SQUAD

The Minturn Community Fund SHOVEL SQUAD is back! The MCF is looking for volunteers to help out our seniors (or injured residents) on those big snow days. If that's YOU, please register to volunteer at: <https://www.minturncommunityfund.org/mcf-contact> and indicate Shovel Squad. You can also sign up via phone (call or text 970-376-4445). Interested volunteers should sign up no later than Sunday 12/10. The "on-call" team will run December 15 – April 15 and volunteers can take shifts whenever it fits their schedules. Once the volunteer list is complete, information will be posted about how seniors or injured residents can request help.

## TOWN HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Minturn Town Hall will be closed the following dates:

- Thursday 11/23 & Friday 11/24 for Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day
- Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Years Day

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

## EC ALERTS

ECAAlert is Eagle County's emergency alert system. To be in the know during emergency situations, be sure that you are signed up for the EC Alert system. If you already have an account, login and ensure that your information is up to date. These alerts will keep you informed regarding a variety of emergency situations. Visit [ecemergency.org](http://ecemergency.org) for more information & to sign up.

## TOURISM MARKETING GRANT

The Towns of Minturn and Red Cliff were just awarded \$30,000 for a 2024 Tourism Marketing Matching Grant.

The Towns are partnering together to create a Minturn / Red Cliff Outdoor Recreation Visitor Guide. This has been a goal that we've been working toward (in a partnership capacity) over the past 2 years (through the Colorado Tourism Office Restart and Reimagine Destinations Programs), and we recently received funding to bring this project to life!

Below is more information about the grant program, and here is a link to the grant program page on the OEDIT website - <https://oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-marketing-matching-grant>.

The guide will include both a print and digital component and will include the following:

- Seasonal itineraries
- Information on outdoor activity options for all seasons
- Trails information, including a trailhead directory
- Parking information / directions (and steering visitors toward visiting popular trails during less busy times such as weekdays and/or certain times of day)
- Information on shoulder season activities
- Information regarding the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway
- Business directory (to include tourism-related businesses such as restaurants, retail, lodging, activities/tour operators)
- Responsible recreation messaging throughout (Leave No Trace, Care for CO, etc). This will include, but is certainly not limited to:
  - Respecting wildlife
  - Respecting trail closures
  - Pick up your poop!
  - Pack it out messaging
  - Education regarding fire safety, river safety, backcountry safety, hunting regulations, legal camping info (and stressing where you cannot camp), etc

The plan is to have the printed guide in downtown businesses, area hotels, Eagle County airport, and Colorado welcome We hope to market the digital guide not only on our websites, but also on Colorado.com and other locations.

## PLANNING UPDATES

**Minturn Forward:** [Land Use and Subdivision Regulation Update Project](#)

### Minturn Forward Code Update Project Overview:

The Town is updating its land use, development, and subdivision regulations (Chapters 16 and 17 of the Minturn Municipal Code), and moving the Town forward after the recent adoption of the 2023 Minturn Community Plan which is intended to guide the Town's land use and development decision making over the next 10-15 years.

### Project Goals:

For several years, the Town has identified numerous issues related to its land use regulations (rules stipulating how property owners can use and develop their properties) and the need to update Chapter 16 - Zoning, and Chapter 17 - Subdivisions of the Minturn Municipal Code to better regulate the types and character of new development and to provide more understandable, user-friendly, and more predictable requirements and processes for anyone wanting to develop or subdivide property.

The Minturn Forward Code Update Project is aimed at achieving four primary goals:

- Align the code with the [Town's Strategic Plan](#).
- Implement policies and strategies of the [2023 Minturn Community Plan](#).
- Create a more complete, consistent, and user friendly set of land use and development regulations using clear graphics and non-technical writing/terms wherever possible.
- Craft regulations and processes that fit Minturn and address important community issues.

### Project Phasing and Timelines:

The Minturn Forward Code Update is anticipated to take 14-16 months to complete a four phase process as outlined below.

#### Phase I: Community Outreach & Engagement (March 2023-August 2023)

Importantly, **prior to the adoption of any new land use or subdivision regulations affecting private property rights, public notice will be provided to all affected property owners**, and staff will present proposed code revisions to the Planning Commission and the Town Council in public meetings and/or work sessions.

Stakeholder Interviews September 28, 2023

#### Phase II: Code Assessment (August 2023-October 2023)

During Phase II, Town staff will be squarely focused on technical review of the existing code to document previously identified issues, as well as new areas of concern. This step will be completed by the Town's Planning Department as well as consultants hired by the Town with expertise in evaluating code language and policies, and recommending revisions.

The code assessment will be informed by public input gathered during the first phase of the project. The result of the code assessment will be a report providing recommendations for code amendments, a road map for making those changes and suggested prioritization - which parts of the code need to be addressed first.

#### Phase III: Drafting (November 2023-March 2024)

Drafting of new code language will logically follow the completion of a code assessment and the presentation of a report to the Town of Minturn Planning Commission and Town Council. Given direction from the commission and council, staff will move forward with drafting new sections of the Town's land use and development regulations. This phase will also be an opportunity for staff to report back to stakeholder and focus group participants on proposed draft changes, and to verify that public input gathered during Phase I was listened to and incorporated into our new code language where and when appropriate.

#### Phase IV: Public Review and Adoption (March 2024-June 2024)

The last phase of the project will include presentation of updated sections of the Town's land use and development code to the Planning Commission and Town Council for review, comment, and approval.

## SNOWPLOW OPERATOR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

The Town of Minturn would like to remind all snowplow operators who are conducting snowplow operations within Minturn, that a Minturn business license is required. Even if your business is not based in Minturn, snow plowing within the town of Minturn is an activity physically located in town.

Additionally, snowplow operators are required to register **each vehicle** that will be plowing in Minturn. Cindy Krieg (Deputy Clerk) has reached out to known plow operators in town, but if you are not currently registered—please reach out to Cindy to get properly licensed. ([events@minturn.org](mailto:events@minturn.org), 970-445-2415).

Thank you for your cooperation.