

Monthly Newsletter

TOWN OF
CRESTONE

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26 May 2026



From the Town Manager

Welcome to the first issue of the Town of Crestone Monthly Newsletter. This newsletter is intended to improve communication, transparency, and community engagement by providing regular updates regarding Town projects, meetings, infrastructure, planning efforts, and upcoming events.

The past several months have involved significant operational work behind the scenes, including continued audit recovery efforts, grant administration, policy development, emergency preparedness coordination, and improvements to Town systems and communications.

While many challenges remain, progress continues to be made across multiple areas of Town operations.

As always, thank you to our residents, volunteers, local businesses, staff, and Board members for your continued participation and support.

Together, we can make a real difference. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

Arielle Blackwell

In this newsletter you can expect:

Town Projects & Updates

Board & Planning News

Community Events & Initiatives

Emergency & Safety Updates

Town Operations & Services

Meetings, Notices & Reminders



Town Continues Financial Stabilization & Audit Recovery Efforts

The Town continues working toward long-term financial stabilization, audit completion, and improved internal financial systems.

During recent meetings, the Board discussed ongoing efforts related to completion of the 2024 audit, preparation for future audits, improved revenue tracking, and strengthening financial controls. Staff has continued organizing historical financial records, improving administrative procedures, and addressing outstanding reporting requirements.

The Town has also engaged the services of Plante Moran to assist with professional financial support services, including municipal accounting guidance, budgeting support, forecasting assistance, and internal controls evaluation.

Town leadership continues prioritizing financial recovery, audit readiness, and development of sustainable long-term systems.



Election Update

The April 2026 Municipal Election was successfully completed. Incumbent Trustees retained their seats, Benjamin “Benji” Byer was elected Mayor, and Gabriela Locastro joined the Board of Trustees as the newest Trustee member.

The Town would like to thank the election judges, staff, and community members who participated in the election process.



Community and Town Updates

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meets on the first Monday of each month.

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Regular Meeting is held on the second Monday of each month.

Board of Trustees Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees Special Meeting is held on the fourth Monday of each month.

Meeting agendas, packets, notices, and updates are available on the Town website.



Traffic Safety & “Slow Crestone Down” Initiative

The Town recently received a \$5,000 Saguache County Sales Tax Grant under the Emergency Services, Public Health, and Safety category to support the “Slow Crestone Down” initiative.

The project is intended to improve traffic safety through measures such as removable speed bumps, advance warning signage, pedestrian safety signage, and community awareness efforts.

The Board also recently approved formation of a Road Safety Committee to further evaluate traffic calming options, road safety concerns, and potential infrastructure improvements throughout Town.

Community participation and feedback will continue to play an important role as these efforts move forward.



Saturday Market

The Town of Crestone Saturday Market is officially underway for the 2026 season. Vendors may sign up digitally through links available on the Town’s Facebook event page or sign up in person at the market. Payments may be made at the market or deposited in the Town Hall slot box.

The Town will have a volunteer present during market operations, and additional volunteers are always welcome. Local musicians and performers are also encouraged to express interest in participating throughout the season.

For vendor, volunteer, or musician information, please visit the Town’s Facebook page or email the Town office and we will gladly provide the appropriate sign-up forms and information.



Town Expands Technology & Operational Improvements

The Town continues implementing operational and technology improvements intended to modernize services, improve communication, and support long-term infrastructure planning.

Recent efforts include the launch of the Town’s new 311 system, continued work on digital workflow improvements, discussions regarding future smart meter implementation, GPS asset mapping efforts, and expanded operational planning tools.

The Board and staff have also continued discussing long-term strategic planning initiatives and improved systems for project tracking, infrastructure management, and communication. These improvements are intended to help streamline operations, improve responsiveness, and support future planning efforts.

EMERGENCY

Emergency Preparedness & Resilience Planning

Emergency preparedness and resilience planning continue to be an active area of focus for the Town.

Recent discussions have included wildfire mitigation coordination, emergency response planning, FEMA and emergency management training opportunities, continuity of operations planning, and coordination with local and regional agencies.

The Board and staff have also continued evaluating operational needs related to Town facilities and long-term workspace planning.

The Town will continue pursuing opportunities to improve preparedness, coordination, and community resilience moving forward.

Municipal Code & Policy Updates

The Town continues reviewing and updating portions of the Municipal Code and internal policy documents.

Recent work has included chapter-by-chapter code review discussions, nuisance code revisions, licensing and event process discussions, fee schedule evaluation, and continued development of personnel policies and administrative procedures.

The Town also plans to make proposed code revisions more publicly accessible through the Town website and public notice process to encourage community review and participation.

These efforts are intended to improve clarity, consistency, transparency, and long-term operational effectiveness.

Thank you for reading!

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