

TOWN OF CRESTONE

COMMUNITY UPDATE

04



WHAT CHANGED IN SEPTEMBER

September was one of those months where a lot of work that had been sitting in the planning stage started to move. The Town submitted two grant applications, brought the new SCADA panel online, continued road and park work, and began making the Museum work as temporary Town Hall space.

This issue focuses on what changed during the month, what is actually moving forward, and what residents can expect to see next.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

02 Water Systems

03 Public Works & Community Improvements

04 SLV Water Leadership

05 At the Energy Fair

06 Town Operations & Services

07 Upcoming Events

08 Special Projects & Stay Connected

TOWN OF CRESTONE

WATER SYSTEMS

WATER WORK MOVES INTO THE NEXT PHASE

The Town's larger water plan still includes future storage, a new production well, and pressure regulation. For now, the first project the Town is trying to move into design is pressure regulation within the distribution system.

On September 14, the Board authorized submission of a \$49,835 Community Development Block Grant application for design, engineering, and environmental clearance related to pressure-reduction improvements. The grant does not require a local match.

If the grant is awarded, the Town will complete the required supplemental budget process before any grant funds are spent.

AN OUTSIDE LOOK AT THE WATER SYSTEM

The Board also received the Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Assessment prepared through Engineers Without Borders USA and the US Water Alliance.

The assessment found the Town's systems generally functional and identified upgraded water meters and pressure-reducing valves as near-term priorities. It also recommended continued operator training and creation of a GIS-based inventory of water and wastewater assets.

The assessment is informational. It does not commit the Town to a particular project, cost, or partnership.

SCADA IS NOW OPERATIONAL

The new SCADA panel has been installed and is operating. Public Works is still working through software and system-management issues as the new equipment is fully brought online.

SCADA gives staff another tool for monitoring and managing the water system. The Board directed the Town to publish public information about the project online rather than offer individual tours of critical water-system controls.

Work on the Living Wisdom Village meter-vault project is also moving toward installation, with Public Works coordinating the remaining scheduling and notice requirements.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$49,835

Water pressure-regulation design grant request

\$92,750

Urban and Community Forestry grant request

\$500

Approved award for an accepted Town logo design

40 hours

Reynaldo Cordova's new full-time Public Works schedule

TOWN OF CRESTONE

PUBLIC WORKS & COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

A MAJOR FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

The Town submitted a \$92,750 application through the Colorado State Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. No local match is required.

The proposed project is intended to address both immediate tree needs and some of the systems that make tree care difficult year after year.

The project includes:

- Irrigation restoration and improvements
- Tree watering and establishment
- A Town tree inventory and management plan
- Hazard-tree work and pruning
- Public Works training and equipment

If funding is offered, the grant agreement will return to the Board before the Town accepts the award.

TOWN HALL PARK

Public Works has already begun aerating and seeding Town Hall Park. Staff is also exploring drought-resistant and lower-maintenance groundcover, better irrigation, swales, rain gardens, and other approaches that could improve the park while reducing long-term maintenance demands.

This work is still being tested and planned. The goal is not to remake the park overnight, but to gradually make Town-owned landscaping better suited to Crestone's climate and available water.

ROAD WORK: FIXING WHAT WE CAN NOW

Road maintenance continues to be one of the Town's most difficult operational challenges. Stormwater runoff has damaged several areas, and some roads need drainage and reshaping work before simply adding more road base will provide a lasting fix.

For now, Public Works is continuing immediate work such as culvert and coupling repairs, patching, filling, and sealing. More extensive road work is being planned for spring.

SPEED-REDUCTION PROJECT

Materials associated with the Town's speed-reduction grant have been ordered. Public Works is also researching more durable crosswalk markings, including recessed or inlaid reflective materials.

The Town has flexibility in placing approved speed bumps and signage on Town roads, which will allow staff to focus improvements where they are most useful.

TOWN OF CRESTONE

SLV WATER LEADERSHIP

WATER LEADERSHIP GROWING BEYOND CRESTONE

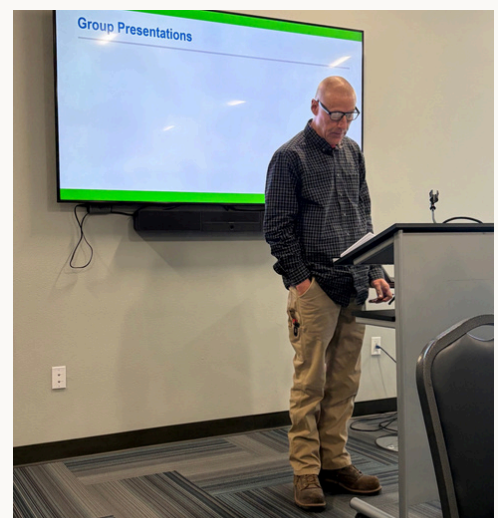
Town Manager Arielle Blackwell, Public Works Superintendent Cullen Davis, and Public Works employee Philip Hardin graduated from the San Luis Valley Water Leadership Institute in September.

One regional collaboration is already beginning to grow out of that work. Phil is working with Robert Vance, the operator and Public Works Director for Monte Vista, to develop a San Luis Valley Water Alliance.

The idea is to create a network of water professionals and community leaders who can learn from one another and support one another's systems and communities.

The group is being developed as a way to share education, training, resources, tools, experience, and practical support across the Valley rather than having every small system try to solve the same problems on its own.

The Alliance is still taking shape, but the goal is straightforward: stronger regional relationships and more opportunities for water professionals to collaborate.



TOWN OF CRESTONE

AT THE ENERGY FAIR

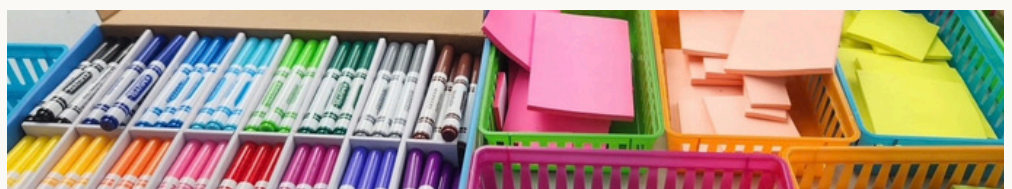
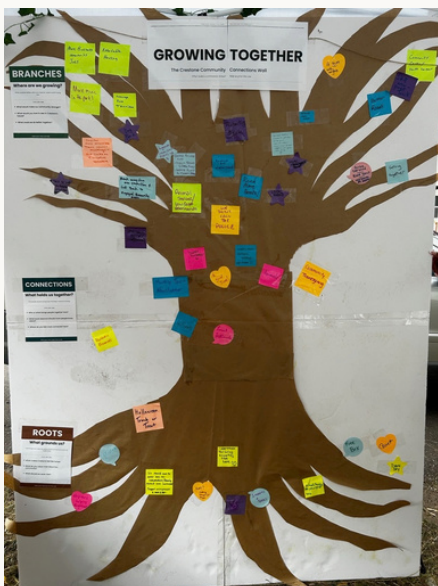
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT THE ENERGY FAIR

At this year's Crestone Energy Fair, the Town tried something a little different. Our Community Connections activation invited people to share ideas and feedback about the community and Town priorities.

It received a lot of participation and gave us more feedback to work with than a one-time conversation at Town Hall usually can.

We do not want it to be a one-day exercise. Community Connections is intended to be a growing project that can come back out at Town events, giving residents more chances to add ideas, react to what others have shared, and tell us what they would like the Town to keep thinking about.

Over time, that should give us a broader picture of community priorities and another way for people to participate outside of formal meetings.



TOWN OF CRESTONE

TOWN OPERATIONS & SERVICES

THE MUSEUM IS BECOMING TEMPORARY TOWN HALL

The Board has moved away from the modular-office option for now and authorized expanded use of the Town Museum as temporary Town Hall space.

The Museum is already serving as workable office space, but winter use requires additional heating and protection for plumbing. Public Works has received a quote for a mini-split system and is obtaining the related electrical estimate. Staff will review available budget capacity before the project proceeds.

The Town is also taking a more serious look at the future of the existing Town Hall building. Staff was directed to solicit professional services for an assessment of the building and possible remediation or rehabilitation needs, investigate whether historic designation may be appropriate, and research grant opportunities that could help fund future work. The modular-office option remains on hold while those alternatives are explored.

BUILDING PUBLIC WORKS CAPACITY

Reynaldo Cordova has moved from a seasonal part-time Public Works position into a regular full-time Public Works role at 40 hours per week. The Board discussed positive feedback regarding his reliability, work performance, and contribution to the team.

Public Works Superintendent Cullen Davis was also appointed as the Town's Building Inspector.

For a small Town, these changes matter. Much of the Town's work depends on a very small number of people being able to cover water operations, roads, parks, facilities, projects, inspections, and emergency needs.

REBUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE AND MUNICIPAL COURT

The Town is working to rebuild the basic administrative structure needed for code compliance and municipal court operations.

The Saguache County Sheriff's Office has expressed interest in issuing municipal citations for certain offenses, including speeding and stop-sign violations. Before that can work effectively, the Town needs a clear process for receiving citations, scheduling court, maintaining records, and handling enforcement.

The Board directed the Town Manager to work with the Town Attorney, Municipal Judge, Mayor, and Sheriff's Office on a coordinated framework.

The Town is also continuing to explore whether some municipal-court functions could be shared with the Town of Moffat while Crestone maintains its own legal authority and Municipal Judge.

TOWN OF CRESTONE

PLANNING COMMISSION

Staff is working with Planning Commission members to restore the Commission to a regular meeting schedule. Matters will continue to be routed according to the authority assigned by the Municipal Code while that schedule is reestablished.

FREEBOX: STILL WORKING THROUGH INSURANCE

The remaining Freebox questions are less about whether the service is valued and more about how to structure it without leaving the Town responsible for risks it does not control.

The Freebox is located on private property and operated by a separate organization, which has made insurance and liability responsibilities difficult to define.

The Board directed staff to obtain a liability-insurance quote and prepare a resolution addressing possible coverage and Town volunteer status. Freebox representatives also reported that their organization would consider obtaining its own liability coverage.

The issue will return to the Board once those options are clearer.

UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS

A TOWN LOGO CONTEST IS COMING

The Board chose to pursue a local design contest for a future Town logo and approved a \$500 award for an accepted design.

The Board expressed interest in concepts that keep some connection to Crestone's historic logo. Submission details will be shared separately once the contest process is finalized.

HARVEST AND HALLOWEEN

Planning is underway for Harvest & Halloween. The Board approved the event plan in September, including continued work on road closures, parking, volunteer flagger training, event safety, and the pumpkin patch.

The Board also approved extended Town Hall Park hours until 11:00 PM on both Friday and Saturday during the event and approved a Zombie Prom in partnership with Nick Carpenter from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

A fuller event schedule will be shared separately as final details are confirmed.

TOWN OF CRESTONE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

FLOOD-MAPPING FIELD WORK IS UNDERWAY

Field reconnaissance for the Town's alluvial fan analysis is happening this week. Project representatives are visiting the area to compare on-the-ground conditions with mapping and modeling work.

This field work is part of the broader flood-hazard analysis the Town has been coordinating with project and State partners.

CEMETERY MAPPING

Survey pins for cemetery mapping have arrived. Staff and the Board are continuing to work through labeling and mapping details before additional field work moves ahead.

STAY CONNECTED TOWN BROADCAST IS LIVE

Receive Town information directly. Choose the notices you want.

CHOOSE YOUR NOTIFICATIONS

- Emergencies
- Town news
- Utilities
- Events
- Roads
- Elections
- Meetings

ANOTHER WAY TO STAY CONNECTED

Broadcast supplements the Town website, Facebook, public posting locations, meeting notices, and newsletter.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 12, 2026 at 9:30 AM

Agendas and meeting packets are posted on the Town website prior to each meeting.

STAY CONNECTED

- Website: townofcrestone.gov
- Facebook: Town of Crestone
- Broadcast: sign up for the Town notices you want
- 311: submit non-emergency Town concerns anytime

Information in this issue is current through October 1, 2026.

