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TOWN SCOOP

THE OFFICIAL TOWN OF SEVERANCE NEWSLETTER

January 2024

SEVERANCE TOWN COUNCIL



Mayor
Matthew
Fries

**Incoming
1/9/2024
Brittany
Vander-
mark**



Council Member
Stephen
Gagliardi

**Incoming
1/9/2024
Craig
Joseph**



Council
Member
Michelle Duda



Council
Member
Dave Bruen



Council
Member
Dan Meyers

COUNCIL CORNER

A Message from Mayor Fries

Hello Severance and 2024!

The Town of Severance will start it's new year with a new council and a new Chief of Police. On January 9th at 5:00 PM, prior to our regular meeting, our new Chief of Police, Ken Chavez, and 4 council members will take the oath of office. I invite and encourage everyone to come and witness this occasion and take the opportunity to meet all of the leaders of your town.

2024 needs to be the year of increased communication from our residents to the town leaders. Please let us know, directly, what is on your mind, what ideas you have to face the challenges we have as a town, and recognize what our town does well. In the upcoming weeks, the Town Council will meet in a public, work session/retreat. The council will review discuss and modify the goals for the town in 2024. You are all invited to attend and to convey your opinions and ideas. (details to come soon)

My hope is that we can always communicate with each other in a professional respectful manner that leads to productivity and efficiency.

Town Council contact information can we found on our website and business cards for each council member can be found inside the main entrance of Town Hall.

I wish you and your family the best in our new year.

Matthew Fries
Mayor

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



Mayors Choice



Building Department Closed Building Permits Jan-Dec of 2023

Row Labels	BELMONT FARMS	GOLDEN EAGLE ACRES	HIDDEN VALLEY FARM	HUNTERS CROSSING	SADDLER PUD	SEVERANCE SHORES	TAILHOLT	Grand Total
Jan	1		7	1	2		2	13
Feb		1	19	3	2		10	35
Mar			3	7	2		11	23
Apr			1	2	3		6	12
May		1	1	3	3			8
Jun			2	3	2		3	11
Jul	1		15	6	2	1	7	31
Aug			41		2		4	47
Sep			32				4	36
Oct			1				11	12
Nov			3				5	8
Dec			6				8	14
Grand Total	2	2	131	25	18	1	71	250



NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE

REGARDING WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER FEE RATES AND NOTICE OF THE NEW STREET MAINTENANCE FEE RATE

Dear Town of Severance Resident,

This letter serves as a 30-day notice to inform you of the Town Council's rate increases for water, wastewater, and stormwater services that will appear on your February 2024 bill. The water rate will increase by 30%; the wastewater rate will increase by 15%; and the monthly stormwater fee will increase by \$1.00 from \$5 to \$6.

A new Street Maintenance Fee of \$15.50 per month will begin for all properties in the Town. This new fee will be restricted to the maintenance and repair of the Town's streets. This historically has been paid using the Town's General Fund balance and this new fee is required to prevent the depletion of that fund.

Town Council adopted all rates and fees in December as part of the 2024 Budget.

For accounts on Town provided water, the total of all the new rates is expected to increase a monthly utility bill for a typical single-family home (excluding outdoor watering or surcharges from exceeding the allotment) by an average range of \$38.45 to \$60.54 a month.

For those accounts not on Town provided water, the total of all the new rates is expected to increase the monthly utility bill an average of \$21.03 a month.

Operating costs have increased due to the price of supplies and materials and the treatment costs passed down from the North Weld County Water District. The Town Council is committed to managing those costs and staying efficient while upholding the Town's commitment to a sustainable future. These changes support the Town Council's commitment to water conservation established in the Town's adopted 2017 Municipal Water Efficiency Plan. To help promote conservation efforts, the Town of Severance will continue the water volume tier structure for customers, incentivizing those who choose to reduce their water consumption.

Utility bills are always due on the 15th of each month.

If you have questions about the rate changes, please contact:

- Town Hall at 970-686-1218 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Or you may visit <https://www.townofseverance.org/utilities>, where you can view a detailed overview of the new rate structures. The new rates are also attached to the back of this letter.

Thank you,

Severance Town Council

2024 Water Rates Monthly and Annually on Usage Classification of Meter

Base Monthly Water Fees: The base water fee is \$34.42 and then \$8.01 per 1,000 Gal (Kgal) used

A surcharge will be assessed when an account's year-to-date usage exceeds the Water Allotment. See Rates Below.

Residential Monthly Rate	
Usage Classification	Per Kgal
3/4" Tap	\$8.01 per Kgal
3/4" Tap w/Dual System	\$8.01 per Kgal
3/4" Tap w/Dual System (Tailholt)	\$8.01 per Kgal

Annual Rate Structure per Kgal			
61,500 (Tailholt)	68,333 (Dual System)	205,000	Exceeds Allotment
\$8.01			\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)
\$8.01		\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)	
\$8.01	\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)		

Commercial Monthly Rate	
Usage Classification	Per Kgal
3/4" Tap	\$8.01 per Kgal
1" Tap	\$8.01 per Kgal
1 1/2" Tap	\$8.01 per Kgal
2" Tap	\$8.01 per Kgal
3" Tap	\$8.01 per Kgal
4" Tap	\$8.01 per Kgal

Annual Rate Structure per Kgal	
Allotment	Exceeds Allotment
205,000 gallons per year	\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)
515,500 gallons per year	\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)
1,025,000 gallons per year	\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)
1,640,000 gallons per year	\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)
3,280,000 gallons per year	\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)
6,150,000 gallons per year	\$15.93 (\$8.01 + \$3.96 + \$3.96)

Water Service Year:

The water service year is from the November billing period to the October billing period of the following year.

Allotment:

The water allotment for a standard tap is 205,000 gallons per. The allotment on your account may vary due to the usage classification of your property. Please contact Town Hall to discuss your individual account.

Water Surcharge:

A water surcharge will be assessed when an account's year-to-date usage exceeds the annual water allotment. Currently, the surcharge is \$3.96 per Kgal in addition to the standard monthly usage fee. This fee is to recover the Town's cost to obtain additional water rights.

Plant Investment Surcharge:

A plant investment surcharge will be assessed when an account's year-to-date usage exceeds the plant investment allotment. Currently, the surcharge is \$3.96 per Kgal in addition to the standard monthly usage fee. This fee is to recover the Town's cost to treat and service the additional water.

2024 Sewer Rates Monthly on Usage Classification

Base Monthly Sewer Fees: Base sewer fee is \$34.73 for the first 5000 gallons and then \$3.86 per every 1,000 Gal (Kgal) used after 5000 gallons

Monthly Rate			Monthly Rate Structure per Kgal	
Usage Classification	Base (0-5000 Gallons)	Per Kgal (5000+)	5000 Gallons per month Base	Per Kgal over 5000 Gallon Base
Per Sewer Tap	\$34.73	\$3.86	\$34.73	\$3.86 per Kgal

Sewer Service Year:

The sewer service year is based on the average monthly water usage used during Decemeber, January, and February. Each year, starting with the March sewer bill, monthly rates will reflect and be charged the three month average each month until the next assessment year.

Allotment:

The base allotment for a standard sewer tap is 5,000 gallons per month.

Sewer Surcharge:

A sewer surcharge will be assessed when an account's usage exceeds the three-month average allotment of 5,000 gallons per month. Currently, the surcharge is \$3.86 per Kgal in addition to the standard monthly base fee.

Street Maintenance Fee & Utility Rate Increases- FYI's

- The Street Maintenance Fee is needed to have a dedicated revenue source to complete the capital maintenance of the Town of Severance roads.

- This includes mill and overlay and other repairs needed to preserve the long-term integrity of the road.

- When capital maintenance is not completed, the deterioration of the roads accelerates, and repair costs increase exponentially. If delays continue, it can cost millions of dollars to reconstruct the entire road.

- The Town roads were professionally evaluated in 2023, a rating was applied (PCI – pavement condition index), and a master plan for capital maintenance was developed for the Town. The Town is currently responsible for 80 centerline miles of road. Over 1,307,437 square yards of asphalt.

- \$800,000 (does not include inflation) is needed per year to maintain the roads per the plan developed.

- The Town has been using General Fund Balance (savings) to pay for the capital maintenance of the roads, but it is not financially responsible to use it for an ongoing expense, nor is it sustainable. The Town uses zero-based budgeting.

- General Fund Revenues are comprised of:

- 37% Property Taxes

- 31% Sales Taxes

- 32% Other Revenue Sources

- General Fund Expenses are distributed to:

- Police Department – (Town's largest department)

- Ordinary Street Maintenance – potholes, street sweeping, snow plowing

- Parks

- Community Development

- Special Events

- Legislative, Admin, and Finance

- North Weld County Water District processes our water and their rates increased significantly. The Town had to raise the Town rates to cover Severance costs.

- All the fees and rate increases were discussed at the November and December Council meetings, the fall community budget open house, and then were adopted as part of the 2024 Budget. These items are discussed every year before and during budgeting for the upcoming fiscal year.

- Only a small part of your individual property tax bill goes to the Town of Severance. (Town of Severance Mill Levy is 12.635)

Unfortunately, everyone has been experiencing inflation, including the Town, and the increased utility rates are needed to cover costs and provide a reserve for emergencies.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



Cuztom Solutions got over 25 nominations all with raving reviews! Felicia, owner and operator, has been described as friendly, passionate and involved in the Community. Felicia sits on the board for the Severance Chamber of Commerce. Cuztom Solutions has been highlighted in local newsletters, magazines, and local radio. Congratulations to Cuztom Solutions! We are proud that you are a part of Severance.

We want to congratulate Ken Kneivel as the 2023 Citizen of the Year! Ken has been described as someone who pours countless hours into making Severance the best community. He is very neighborly and works with the town and school district to help the students succeed. His goal is to have a pivot sprinkler system installed and provide an opportunity for students to have hands-on experience in agriculture. Mayor Fries mentioned Ken is ALWAYS someone he has looked up to!!! Congrats, Ken; we are grateful to have awesome people like you in our Town.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Congratulation to Jacob Simpson! Over the past few years Jacob has been an example of what it means to be a youth of the town of Severance and continues to pour countless hours into making Severance the best community in Northern Colorado. Jacob showcases many of the TOWN PRIDE values. Most notably, teamwork, open-minded, welcoming, neighborly, professionalism and respect. Jacob shows is TOWN PRIDE values through his work with the Severance High School FFA and continuously participating in community service projects. Jacob, we are so lucky and proud that you are involved in our community! Congrats!



ENGAGE. EDUCATE. Empower

GET PAID TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At the Weld RE-4 School District, our staff is the reason we are celebrated across the state for our outstanding schools and hometown feel. This is why we consider our nearly 1,000 employees to be our most important asset.

APPLY NOW



bit.ly/3ML9Y6z

IN-DEMAND POSITIONS:

- Special Education Aides
- Bus Drivers
- Substitutes



**CLICK THE LOGO TO VISIT
THE WELD RE-4 WEBSITE**



For more information on local school events, click the school logo!

**SEVERANCE HIGH
SCHOOL**



**SEVERANCE MIDDLE
SCHOOL**



RANGEVIEW ELEMENTARY



TOWN OF SEVERANCE SNAPSHOT

2023



APPROX.
10,600
POPULATION



300 TONS OF
ICE SLICER
USED

10.5K SOCIAL PLATFORM FOLLOWERS

CREATED A CITIZEN
ADVISORY BOARD



ADDED 2 PLANNING
COMMISSION MEMBERS

MEDIAN HOME
PRICE

\$511,000



930

HOURS
MOWING

234

NEW SINGLE
FAMILY
RESIDENTIAL
PERMITS ISSUED

19 NEW HOME BASE BUSINESSES

82

MILES MAINTAINED
BY PUBLIC WORKS

122 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE

794 CODE ENFORCEMENT
VIOLATIONS

41 MANICURED
ACRES OF PARK
AND REC

UPDATED A LAND
USE CODE

5,860 ATTENDEES AT SEVERANCE DAYS

OVER 1 MILLION DOLLARS IN 5 NEW GRANTS

TOWN EVENTS

20



500 NEW
WEBSITE NEWS
AND ALERT
SIGN-UPS

69 TOTAL HOME BASE
BUSINESSES

3 SCHOOLS



\$114,000

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

MEDIAN AGE
30'S

5TH YEAR
TREE CITY USA

SEVERANCE IS 9.1 SQ MILES

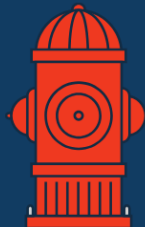
188,909,000
GALLONS OF
WATER BILLED
NEW UTILITY
ACCOUNTS



348

ANIMAL
COMPLAINTS

341
FIRE HYDRANTS
CLEANED AND
MAINTAINED



21
MILES OF SEWER
LINES JETTED AND
CLEANED

1019 WATER VALVES EXERCISED AND CLEANED

3



CONSERVATION
EASEMENTS

SAFEST CITY IN
COLORADO

3,645

MEALS DONATED
TO WELD FOOD
BANK



2

STOPLIGHTS

935

TRAFFIC STOPS



39

SEE YOU PM



3,911 TOTAL
HOUSING UNITS



Stay updated on the construction progress of the Clearview Library District library Branch in Severance. Learn more about our Facilities Plans for the Library Branch in Severance on our website, and stay informed about the construction progress! Visit bit.ly/CLDLIBBranchSeverance.

Help us determine the Library Hours at Severance! The Clearview Library District is getting ready to open a new library branch in Severance by Spring 2024. We're currently working on staffing and programming for the new branch. We'd love to hear your input on a crucial aspect: the days the library will be open.

Your feedback will help us finalize a schedule that serves members of the Severance community. We provided two options for selecting your preferred library schedule in our brief survey. **Click the following Survey Monkey link to participate: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9MR9RHN>.**

Thank you in advance for your valuable time and input. Your feedback is greatly appreciated! Feedback for consideration will be accepted until January 15, 2024.

Bookmobile Hours & Locations

Tuesdays - 9:30am-11:30am

Blue Spruce Park, 103 Blue Spruce Dr.

Thursdays- 3:00pm-4:00pm

Overlook Park, 10007 County Rd. 72

Fridays- 3:00pm-3:30pm

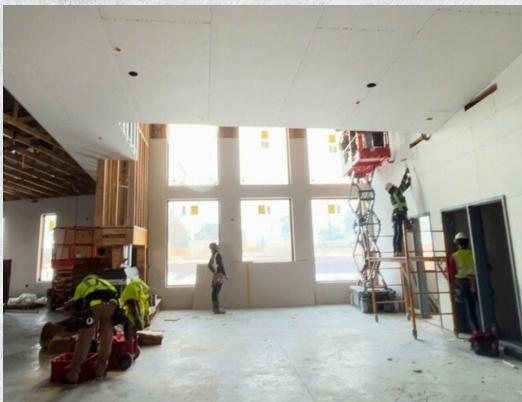
Range View Elementary (school days only),
700 Ponderosa Dr.

Fridays- 4:00pm-5:00pm

Severance Shores Park, Shoreview Pkwy



To see our full Bookmobile schedule and stay informed of any changes, visit bit.ly/CLDBOMOSchedule.



EVERY TUESDAY

Storytime and a Craft
in Severance









Read, Rhyme, and
Romp in Severance

EVERY THURSDAY

Severance Family
STEAM Hour

Visit our website at clearviewlibrary.org/events to explore all the thrilling events we have lined up for January!

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 1	2	 3	4	5	6
7	8	 9	10	11	12	13
14	 15	16	 17	18	19	20
21	 22	 23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	 31			

Calendar of Events

Monday, January 1st
New Years Day| Town Hall Closed

Wednesday, January 3rd
12pm-2pm | Municipal Court

Wednesday, January 3rd
6pm-8pm | Citizen Advisory
Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 9th
6pm - 9pm| Town Work
Session/ Council Meeting

Monday, January 15th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day|
Town Hall Closed

Wednesday, January 17th
6pm-8pm | Planning Commission
Meeting

Monday, January 22nd
6pm-7pm| Tree Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 23rd
6pm-8pm| Town Council
Meeting/Work Session

Wednesday, January 31st
4:30pm-6:30pm| Meet the
Chiefs of Severance



SEVERANCE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Your Severance Chamber of Commerce is a great way to get involved in your community, promote your business and support other local businesses!

- ☑ Click here to view our Newsletter and check out upcoming events

- ☑ Click here to visit our website

- ☑ Click here to see how you can get involved with the Chamber and the community by becoming an Ambassador

Severance is proud to announce it has a new Police Chief! Kenneth Chavez assumed command of the Severance Police Department on January 1, 2024. He will be officially sworn in by Mayor Matt Fries on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at Severance Town Hall.



Chief Chavez comes to Severance after a distinguished law enforcement career with two previous departments. He served on the Denver Police Department for forty-two years; twenty-one of which were at the rank of a command officer. From January to October 2023, he served as the Interim Chief of Police of Leadville, Colorado. This ten-month time period provided Chief Chavez with invaluable experience serving at a small-town law enforcement level which was quite different from serving in Denver, the largest city in Colorado.

Simultaneously with his law enforcement career, Chief Chavez also served thirty-six years in the Colorado Army National Guard. He served as an enlisted Soldier, Non-Commissioned Soldier, and Commissioned Officer. He commanded at the Detachment, Company, Battalion, and Brigade levels. Additionally, he served three combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He retired at the rank of Colonel in 2016.

Chief Chavez has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Metropolitan State University, a Masters Certificate in Homeland Security from the University of Denver, and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Additionally, he is a life-time member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, and has been a member of the National Latino Peace Officers Association for twenty years.

Chief Chavez is extremely proud to have been selected to serve as the new Severance Chief of Police and looks forward to leading the Severance Police Department in serving this community with Dignity, Respect, Transparency, and Honor.



POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE

PLEASE NOTE THAT MONTHLY STATS MAY VARY DUE TO WHEN INFORMATION IS PROCESSED

December 2023

It is the mission of the Severance Police Department to serve our community through collaboration with our citizens to maximize public safety while providing ethical and equitable services.

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY OR NEED TO SPEAK WITH A SEVERANCE POLICE OFFICER, PLEASE CALL 911.

If you do not wish to call 911 and still need to speak with a Severance Police Officer, please call the Weld County Dispatch 970-350-9600 (option 4).



Town of Severance Police Dept.
3 Timber Ridge Pkwy
Severance, CO 80550

970 -686-1218
townofseverance.org/police-department

	Alarm Burglar	5		Domestic Violence	0
	Trespass	2		Family Problems/ Child	2
	Assault	3		Fraud	0
	Assist Fire /Medical	4		Harassment	4
	Drug Activity	7		Hit and Run	1
	Civil Issue /Standby	1		Suicide/Mental Health	6
	Criminal Mischief	2		Suspicious Circumstances	22
	Custodial Arrest	2		Traffic Stops	45
	Disturbance	6		Traffic Accidents	9
TOTAL CITATIONS		12	TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE		420

CODE COMPLIANCE AT-A-GLANCE

Report Online: www.townofseverance.org/home/webforms/comments

EIGHT INCHES MAX ON WEEDS AND GRASSES

Grasses and weeds must be kept at a height of 8" or less in yards and alleys and 9" or less in fields and undeveloped lots.
In Town of Severance



RUBBISH & OUTDOOR STORAGE

Properties must be maintained in a neat, tidy, and methodical manner. The accumulation of rubbish is not permitted. Rubbish includes but is not limited to items discarded or unusable or susceptible to weather as well as branches, yard waste, tires and appliances. Outdoor storage includes items not normally stored outdoors in a residential area.

ANIMAL DEFECACTION AND LEASH LAWS

Any owner taking the animal upon any public way or other public property in the Town shall immediately remove or cause to be removed, and lawfully dispose of, all fecal matter left on such property by the animal. All animals shall be kept under control. No person who has assumed responsibility for an animal shall allow such animal to run at large within the Town.



TRASH SHOULD BE SECURELY STORED

Unless it's your pick-up day, your trash must be securely stored behind the front plane of the building in plastic/metal cans with tight fitting lids or tightly secured plastic bags. Take your trash to the curb no sooner than 12 hours before your scheduled pick-up day.

INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES

An inoperable motor vehicle is any vehicle not displaying a current license plate and validation sticker, or is not operational due to flat tires, missing parts or damage. Inoperable vehicles may be stored on your property as long as they are screened from view. Car covers are not sufficient for screening day.



DO NOT PARK ON YARDS

You can only park on improved areas, meaning the ground must have asphalt, concrete, rock, gravel, or other similar inorganic material with a border. Parking on all other surfaces (like grass, dirt, or bark mulch) is in violation of our local code.

SNOW REMOVAL - YOU'VE GOT 24 HOURS

Residents are required to remove snow and ice from their property's sidewalks within 24 hours after the accumulation. Remember, no letter is issued for violations, it's up to you!



THE WRONG WAY TO USE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ANY EASEMENTS

Generally, a right-of-way (ROW) or easement is an area for public access (usually along roads) to host sidewalks, lightpoles, road signs, utility boxes and more. The ROW is reserved for the safe passage of motorists, bicycles, pedestrians, and stormwater. The most common items found illegally in the ROW or easement include, dumpsters, fencing, landscape materials, storage containers, basketball hoops, and any personal or commercial signage. Weeds and litter in the ROW or easement is the responsibility of the owner, agent owner, occupant or lessee of the property adjacent to the ROW or easement.

WHAT IS CODE ENFORCEMENT?

Code Enforcement is town staff, who enforce the Town's codes and ordinances. We focus on voluntary compliance and want all citizens to be able to live happily in their homes, whether a tenant or owner. Please take time to understand any violations found at your property and the necessary steps for compliance. Please visit townofseverance.org/municipal-code for code information.



To report a violation, call 970-673-2470 or submit online at www.townofseverance.org/home/webforms/comments

HOW WE ENFORCE CODES

If an officer finds a violation or finds a complaint valid, a letter is sent to the property owner. If it's a rental property, a copy is also sent to the tenant and the property management company, if known. The letter identifies the specific violation and sets a final date to correct the problem. Remember there is no letter for snow removal violations. After the final date, an officer will re-inspect the property. If the problem still exists, the officer may issue a civil citation and/or hire a contractor to do the work. The contractor's costs along with a municipal fee are billed to the property owner.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Please call 970-673-2470 or visit townofseverance.org/community-services.



The WSFR Board of Directors is pleased to announce that after an extensive search, thorough selection process, and careful consideration, Chris Angermuller has been selected to lead the fire district as WSFR's new Fire Chief. Chief Angermuller brings a wealth of experience and leadership to our district. He will begin his role in January, which will give him and his family time to celebrate the holidays and relocate to the area.



Chief Angermuller has served as the Deputy Chief for the Grand Junction Fire Department on the Western Slope of Colorado since 2019. He has also been serving as Interim Fire Chief for the Clifton Fire Protection District since January 2023. He was an Assistant Chief and a Battalion Chief at the Kingman Fire Department in Arizona from 2016-2019, and was with the Overland Park Fire Department in Kansas from 1997-2015. Chief Angermuller has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Park University. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, and he will soon be completing a Doctorate's Degree in Public Administration.

"We believe that Chief Angermuller brings the right combination of experience, vision, and leadership to guide WSFR into the future," WSFR Board President Andrew Rosen said. "We are confident that he will build upon the strong foundation laid by Interim Fire Chief Darren Jaques."

Please join us in congratulating Chief Chris Angermuller on his new role.

Welcome to the WSFR family, Chief!