

Grand Junction Newcomers Club

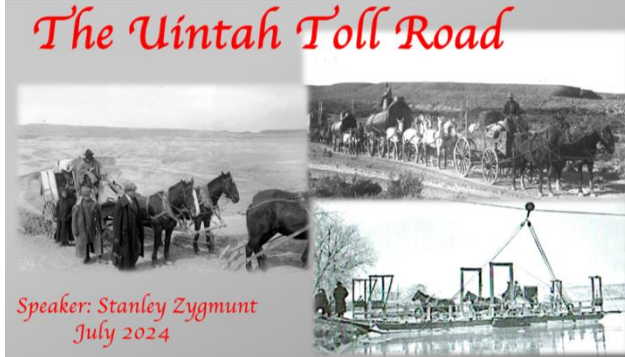
Where newcomers become old friends

President's Letter

Many times, I begin by talking about the weather, but not today. I recently attended a conference in Washington DC where one of the speakers was the US Surgeon General. He mentioned that 1 in 2 of people in the United States suffers from loneliness. This made me think about how fortunate I am to have many friends here in Grand Junction. Almost all of them are because of Newcomers Club and all the activities. Get involved and participate in all that we have to offer. It will be good for you!

- Gary Fitzpatrick, President

July 10 Speaker



Newcomer member Stan Zygmunt will spin local history tales around the Uintah Toll Road completed in 1905 from Dragon Junction to Vernal and Fort Duchesne. Find out why investors sank serious money into building not only the toll road, but the world's steepest and crookedest railroad across the Bookcliffs. Learn how the names Mack, Baxter, and McAndrews are related to a unique material called Gilsonite. Find out what Henry Ford, Aldophus Busch, chewing gum, wet sheep, and 80,000 bricks have in common. And time permitting, Stan will tell us how that baby-blue warehouse that can be seen from I-70 west of Fruita ties United Kingdom nuclear reactors to Gilsonite.



Minutes June 12, 2024

Reminder – You don't have to wait for the next month's newsletter to read the minutes. They're posted on our website shortly after each meeting.

First Vice President Tom Politzer called the meeting to order at 10 am, since President Gary Fitzpatrick is traveling. He asked for a motion to approve the May meeting minutes, as published in the club newsletter. **Ruth Anna** so moved and **Jerry Norton** seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by voice vote among those attending.

Treas. Bill Gates reported that club finances are "in good shape," with \$2,457.20 in checking and \$7,680.39 in reserve accounts, including one Certificate of Deposit.

Vice President Tom thanked **Tanya Davis** for the morning's coffee and delicious assortment of treats. She in turn shared the thanks with her refreshments committee. Members with June birthdays also were recognized.

Linda Ash of We Care said the group must be staying healthy because she sent only one greeting card during the past month -- a get well card to **Dianne Leeth**, who had knee surgery.

Larrayne Zygmunt of the membership committee reported that four new members signed up: **Deane and Marilyn Drury** from Heath, Ohio; **Jessica Seeny** from Raleigh, N.C.; and **Lisa Rischar** from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Ken Seitz issued a final reminder about the June 27 wine tasting event from 4-6 pm at the Art Center. Cost is \$25/person to taste an assortment of French wines, including from the Burgundy and Alsace regions. He also updated

the group on the annual Labor Day barbecue, set for Monday, September 2, from 5-8 p.m. at Canyon View Park. Because Newcomers has reserved the pavilion, which can accommodate 150 people, seating will be on a first-come first-seated basis. Cost for the barbecue will be \$13/person for members and \$15/person for non-member guests. A sign-up form is included in this newsletter.

Douglas Grodt, who heads the hiking group, answered frequently-asked questions about hiking activity when the weather turns hot: Yes, the group will continue hiking throughout the summer. And no, the hikes won't be scheduled for early-morning hours to escape the heat. Instead, the hiking group will head to the Grand Mesa, where higher elevations translate into markedly cooler temperatures. Douglas provides details of upcoming hikes through group emails, sent to his distribution list, which currently includes 137 Newcomers members. To sign up for the list, contact Douglas at jdgrodt@yahoo.com

Ruth Anna alerted the group to a June 23 "Sippin' in the Stacks" fund-raising event for the Mesa County Public Library Foundation, a non-profit that supports the library's "extra" programs. While public libraries receive government funding, those dollars only cover basic services. The Foundation raises money for additional community programs, including Summer Reading and Comic.con, plus Adult Learning Center classes on adult literacy, GED preparation, English as a Second Language and citizenship. While the June 23 event is coming fast, Ruth noted that others take place throughout the year.

Stan Zygmunt said Midday with New Dimensions will offer two upcoming programs -- "Crisis on the Colorado River" on September 10 from noon-1 p. at Mesa County's new Clifton Branch Library and a discussion of Colorado's bats on October 8 at the Central Library. More detail will be available as the dates near.

Susan Norton said that the Music in the Grapevines summer concert series at Two Rivers Winery is in full swing; the next concert is July 16 at 7:30 pm, featuring Exit 42. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Despite the later-than-usual start, the concert will still be two hours long. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20/person; those

purchased at the door are \$25/person. Proceeds support the Art Center of Western Colorado.

Guest speaker **Dalida Sassoon Bollig**, CEO of Grand Junction's Business Incubator Center, described the center's driving mission as breaking the boom-and-bust economic cycle that plagued the Grand Valley for decades and creating a more resilient, vibrant business climate. Founded in 1986, the center fosters economic growth in a wide range of industries by providing promising start-ups with free business consultation and support. The center can provide gap lending -- up to \$300,000 to businesses that don't have established relationships with traditional lenders -- and run interference with local, county, state and federal programs. It also offers technical resources, equipment and operating space to get fledgling businesses, including agribusinesses, up and running. Within five years, those businesses are expected to be financially viable -- and able to create new jobs in the community. The Business Incubator also has begun working with non-profit organizations, since they provide a sizable number of local jobs.

During 2023, the GJ Business Incubator helped businesses create 745 new full-time jobs that pay \$55,000/year or more -- higher than the local median income of \$48,000/year. It also provided \$1.79 million in direct loans to start-up businesses (or some struggling established businesses) and facilitated \$1.97 million in loans from third parties. More information is available on the Business Incubator Center website, www.gjincubator.org.

Stacie Hawkins and **Lisa Seitz** ran the monthly raffle, which offered a selection of prizes to ticket-holders.

Vice President Tom concluded the meeting at 11:10 am.

- Lois Leach, Secretary



I regret to say that we have no photos of club activities this month. Please snap a shot of your group to share with the rest of us. Also, let me know of any upcoming community activities that others may find of interest. Thanks!

dale.gates1@gmail.com.

- Dale Gates, Newsletter Editor



Newcomers Club Labor Day Barbeque

Plan on joining us for
the annual Labor Day

BBQ on **Monday, September 2 at 5 pm** at Canyon View Park in the Grand Pavilion. Reservations are on a first-come basis. The registration form is on page 9 of this newsletter. For more information, contact **Lisa Seitz** at 303-263-4391.

Member Notes



We welcomed several new members this month.

Joe and Michel Letko, from Texas. 2148 Vista Cascada, GJ 81507. 713-320-5856 (Joe), 281-772-7058 (Michel). joeletko@gmail.com, micheletko@gmail.com

Lisa and Carl Rischar, from Florida. In temporary housing. 954-592-7299 (Lisa), 954-638-7174 (Carl). lisa@rischar.org, carl@rischar.org

Jessica Seery, from North Carolina. 2519 I Rd, GJ 81505. 919-400-3648, jessicabarrett1990@gmail.com



Let **Linda Ash** know if someone in the club needs a card: 3945ash@gmail.com, 970-245-2775.



Community Concerts



Music in the Grapevines returns for its summer 2024 concerts at Two Rivers Winery.

- ♪ **July 16 – Exit 42**
- ♪ **August 13 – Still House String Band**
- ♪ **September 4 – Stray Grass**

Tickets are \$20 at artcenterguild.org, at The Art Center (1803 N 7th), and at the winery (2087 Broadway). Tickets are \$25 at the gate. Gates open at 6 pm; music starts at 7 **except July 16** which starts at 7:30. Bring a lawn chair and picnic to enjoy in the shadow of the CO National Monument.

St. Matthew's Episocpal Church invites you to bring a lawn chair and enjoy their **Summer Concert Series**. Free. Donations recommended. Stmatthewsqj.org/events.

- ♪ **July 7, 6-8 pm - The Desert Flyer Band.** Hot dogs will be for sale.
- ♪ **July 14, 6-7 pm - Katie & the Players.** Sitto's Arabic Food Truck on site.
- ♪ **July 21, 6-8 pm - Piper Davis.** Monarca (Mexican) Food Truck on site.

Kafm Radio Room Concerts bring a range of talent to their comfortable studio. Doors open at 6:30 pm; concerts begin at 7 pm. Kafmradio.org/The-Radio-Room.

- ♪ July 10 – Moors & McCumber. \$25.
- ♪ July 14 – Easy Honey. \$20.

Fruita Thursday Night Concert Series Enjoy a free outdoor concert in Fruita Civic Center Park every Thursday at 7:30 pm. The lineup:

- ♪ **July 11 – Stray Grass** (Bluegrass/Americana)
- ♪ **July 18 – Michael Morrow & The Culprits** (Rock)
- ♪ **July 25 – Frank Bregar Orchestra** (Big Band)



Bring a lawn chair and enjoy Grand Junction's **Centennial Band on July 18** at 7 pm in Sherwood Park. Free.



The **Mesa County Fair** runs from **July 16 – 20** at the fairgrounds, 2785 US-50. Activities include bull riding, rodeo, motor sports events, music, vendors, and free entertainment. Open 10 am.

In the Community



Take a **Downtown Plant Walk** with a botanist on **July 11 at 6 pm**. Meet at the NW corner of 5th and Main. \$6. Registration required at

<mailto:gjparksandrec@gjcity.org>.

July offerings at **Mesa County Library** (mesacountylibraries.org) include:

- **July 8: Modern Pop Art Experience & Collage Workshop.** 5-7 pm. Registration required.
- **July 10: Poetry Night.** 6-8 pm.
- **July 11: Books on Tap.** 5:30-7 pm. The Ale House.
- **July 17: Renter's Rights Workshop.** 6-7:15 pm. Registration required.
- **Mesa County Oral History Meeting: The Historic Lowell School Building.** 12-1 pm.
- **Book Launch: *The Horse*.** 5:30-7 pm.

Glade Park Volunteer Fire Department Movies Under the Stars continues its tradition of offering food and drink, live entertainment (7 – 8 pm), and movies for the whole family. Behind the fire department building on DS Rd. Free admission.

The line-up:

- **July 12 – "Ratatouille"**
- **July 26 – "Luca"**
- **Aug. 2 – "Madagascar"**
- **Aug. 9 – "Harry & the Henersons"**
- **Aug. 16 – "Up"**

Farmers Markets



Our many farmers markets offer local produce, prepared foods and flowers. Some also offer music, art and crafts. Plan on enjoying these while supporting Grand Valley farms, orchards and other vendors.

- **Cross Orchards Historic Site,** Wednesdays and Saturdays, starting June 15. 8 am to noon
- **Grand Junction,** Main Street, on Thursdays, starting July 18. 5:30 to 8:30 pm
- **Fruita,** Reed Park, 250 S Elm St, Saturdays, June 8 – Oct. 26. 8:30 am to noon
- **Palisade,** 3rd and Main, Sundays, June 2 – Oct. 6. 9 am to 1 pm

Independence Day Celebrations



Grand Junction 4th of July activities include:

- **10 am – noon, Parade** downtown
- **5:35 pm - GJ Jackalopes vs Idaho Falls Chukars,** Suplizio Field, 1315 North Ave.
- **Fireworks** after baseball game, Lincoln Park

July Activities

On hiatus – Armchair Travelers, Book Club, Dinner Club, Downhill Skiing, Movie Club, Needle Crafters, Wine Tasting.



COFFEE (Monthly Meeting)

Everyone is welcome at our monthly coffee, held the **2nd Wednesday** of each month at the Masonic Lodge/Grand Valley Event Center (2400 Consistory Ct). We meet at **9:30 am** to enjoy a bit of coffee and socializing before our business meeting. We usually have a guest speaker from local non-profit or other organization. Meetings conclude around 11 am.

The next meeting is **July 10**. Newcomer member Stan Zygmunt will tell us about the fascinating history of The Uintah Road.



BOWLING

Strikes! Spares! Gutter balls! Whatever your skill level, you are welcome to join up with other Newcomers every **Friday at 9:15 am** at the Orchard Mesa Lanes, 295 27 Rd. It's only \$8.50 for three games. Shoes are available for rental. For information, phone or text **Sue Slaughter** at 817-271-3727.



HAPPY HOUR

Happy hours are on the **1st, 3rd and 5th** Wednesdays of the month usually from **5 to 7 pm**.

On **July 3**, we'll be at **Tiara Rado Golf Course**; on **July 17** we'll meet at **Base Camp Fruita**; and on **July 31**, join us at **Mama Ree's**.

A suggestion: With so many new members and guests at happy hours, wear your name tag to facilitate introductions and lighten the load on our memories.



HIKING

This group is for those who like an easier and friendly form of hiking around the scenic Grand Valley and the Grand Mesa. Participants meet at **8:45 am** on **Thursdays** at a trailhead or carpool site. Contact **Douglas Grodt** at newcomerhikers@gmail.com to be put on the distribution list for upcoming outings.



KNITTING

Knitting group meets all summer at Sherwood park 3rd Monday of month at **1:30**.



MAH JONGG

Newcomer mah jongg players meet **Thursday** mornings from **9 -11 am** at the St Mary's Pavilion (**Peet's Coffee Café**, 750 Wellington). Contact **Nancy Holmaier** at 224-688-2308 for additional information.



TENNIS

Drop in any **Monday, Wednesday or Friday** at Canyon View Park for mixed doubles play. Court time is **8 – 10 am**. Everyone welcome. Questions? Call **Tony Miller**, 970-255-9964.



Wine Tasting

The most recent wine tasting was held on June 27 continuing the tour of France in the regions of Burgundy, Beaujolais, and Alsace. Stay tuned for the next wine tasting in the Fall.


Free and Fun in July


Date	What	Where	Time	More Information
5	First Friday	The Art Center and downtown galleries	evening	gjartcenter.org
7	St. Matthews Summer Concert Series	The Desert Flyer Band	6 - 8 pm	Stmatthewsgj.org/events
11	Stray Grass concert	Fruita Civic Center Park	7:30 pm	fruita.org/parksrec/page/Thursday-night-concert-series
14	St. Matthews Summer Concert Series	Katie & The Players	6 – 7 pm	Stmatthewsgj.org/events
18	Michael Morrow & The Culprits	Fruita Civic Center Park	7:30 pm	fruita.org/parksrec/page/Thursday-night-concert-series
18	GJ Centennial Band Concert	Sherwood Park	7:00 pm	
21	St. Matthews Summer Concert Series	Piper Davis	6 – 8 pm	Stmatthewsgj.org/events
25	Frank Bregar Orchestra - concert	Fruita Civic Center Park	7:30 pm	https://www.fruita.org/parksrec/page/thursday-night-concert-series
26	Fruita Fourth Friday	Downtown Fruita	Evening	gofruita.com/thingstodo/fruita-fourth-fridays



New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute News

New Dimensions volunteers

are hard at work developing new classes for the fall term, working toward offering 80 classes for the term with half of those being new classes. The class catalog will be available online September 4. Registration opens September 11 and closes September 16. Classes start September 30 and end November 15.

Midday with New Dimensions offers a one-hour lecture titled **Colorado's Bats: Their Values and Challenges**, presented by Dan Neubaum at the Mesa County Central Library, at noon, on Thursday, August 8. Dan is a Wildlife Biologist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, having worked with bats for over 20 years.

Dan will give a brief background of bats that occur in Colorado, explain their unique traits, their benefits to the ecosystem, and the challenges that arise when their world and ours overlap, describe equipment used to study bats, and explain the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a fungus outbreak discovered in Colorado bats.

Midday with New Dimensions is a partnership between Mesa County Libraries and New Dimensions Lifelong Learning, offering a free public lecture the second Thursday at noon every other month. Seating is first come, first served. Lecture information can be found on the Mesa County Libraries event calendar at <https://mesacountylibraries.org/events/>.

Midday is expanding, adding two lectures at the new Clifton Library. **Midday with New Dimensions/Clifton** lectures are scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, and Tuesday, January 14. Newcomers member, Mark Hermunstad, will be presenting a lecture titled **Crisis on the Colorado River** for the September 10 **Midday/Clifton**. Mark is a retired attorney with 40 years experience in water law and related issues.

The lecture will cover the Colorado River Compact and the Law of the River, how water flows in the Colorado River drainage have been affected by the changing climate, current negotiations between the states and directives from the federal government regarding dwindling

water supplies, and how all of this could impact the Grand Valley.

Member Classified Ads

Free text-only space is available for member non-commercial and personal ads. They will run until forbid or a maximum of three months both in the newsletter and on our website. Send your request to gjnewcomers@gmail.com by the 20th of the preceding month



- large format digital prints
- indoor/outdoor banners
- books/booklets
- screen printing

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Scan to access gjnewcomers.org



Grand Junction Newcomers Club
PO Box 3222
Grand Junction, CO 81502
gjnewcomers@gmail.com
gjnewcomers.org

Submissions for general club news and ads are due the 20th of the preceding month.

You don't have to be new to the area to join Newcomers. Annual dues are \$15, \$25 for a couple. Download the membership form at gjnewcomers.org, and mail the completed form with a check. Or come to a monthly coffee (2nd Wednesday of the month, 9:30 am, at the Masonic Lodge/Grand Valley Event Center (2400 Consistory Ct) to get to know us a bit and sign up then. You'll meet great people, receive our member directory, get our newsletter and timely email alerts, can join any of our regular activity groups, and participate in special events.

Executive Board 2023-2024

President – Gary Fitzpatrick, 419-450-9438,
gfitzpatrick77@gmail.com

1st Vice President – Tom Politzer, 303-888-5437,
tpolitzer@msn.com

2nd Vice President – Stacie Hawkins, 206-501-1523,
shawkins5594@gmail.com

Treasurer – Bill Gates, 541-613-4390,
whgates.62@gmail.com

Secretary – Lois Leach, 303-748-5203,
decsaj12948@gmail.com



**ATTENTION
PLEASE!**

The reservation form for the Memorial Day barbeque is on the next page.

July 2024

Grand Junction Newcomers Club 2024 Labor Day Barbeque Reservation Form

Event Date: Monday, September 2, 2024

Event Time: 5pm to 8pm

Event Location: Canyon View Park, Grand Shelter

Event Cost: \$13.00 per member, \$15 for non-members

Member Name(s):

Member Phone #:

Member Email Address:

Number of Members Attending:

Number of Meat Meals:

Number of Vegetarian Meals:

Event Details:

Food menu will be: Sausage and chicken, roasted potatoes and cole slaw and cookies. We will provide a vegetarian option upon request.

Beverages provided: water, sparkling flavored water and iced tea.

Pavilion seating is limited to 112, so reservations will be on a **first come, first serve basis**.

Due to the limited seating, we will accept reservations for **MEMBERS ONLY until Monday, August 21st**, and then open reservations to members and guests.

Cutoff for reservations will be **Tuesday, August 27th**.

Make check payable to: Grand Junction Newcomers Club and mail to: Ken Seitz 2675 Autumn Brook Ct.

Grand Junction, CO 81506