



GRAND JUNCTION NEWCOMERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

WHERE NEWCOMERS BECOME OLD FRIENDS

MINUTES – JULY 8, 2026

CLUB BUSINESS

President Gary Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 10 am, noting that "even amid the smoke, we're here." He called for any changes to the June meeting minutes and, hearing no changes, asked for a motion and a second to approve them as is. **Susan Norton** so motioned; **Marilyn Drury** seconded. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

President Gary thanked **Tanya Davis**, head of the Hospitality Committee, for the Independence Day-themed treats and decorations. "Once again, you've produced a very festive selection," he added. He also congratulated the handful of members with July birthdays.

Treasurer Bill Gates reported that the club's checking account has \$8,535.31, with \$.72 in interest. Reserves are at \$5,516.08, with \$84.90 in interest, year to date.

The Membership Committee's **Larryne Zygmunt** said that **Joyce Gilligan**, who moved here from Wyoming, became a new member. In addition, three visitors - **Pattie Robinson** and **Ginger Hiatt**, both of Grand Junction, and **Ruth Abate** of Fruita -- were visitors at the meeting. **President Gary** welcomed them all.

Reporting on behalf of **Karen Dreher** of the club's We Care program, **Sharon Lindsey** said that get well cards were sent to **Pat Perrin**, who had surgery after breaking her leg; **Don Ami** and **Dee Ramsel**, who both sustained broken arms; **Lori Arment**, who had abdominal surgery; and **Jerry Norton**, who had "one more surgery" in a series of operations.

Stacie Hawkins and **Molly Fitzpatrick** ran a special raffle of only four donated items -- two hand-made items, including a decorated gourd by **Wayne and Linda Ash**, plus two tickets to Music in the Grapevines summer concerts. Raffle tickets were \$3 each. The raffle raised \$125 to support club activities. Stacie noted that there

will be no raffle in August, although members are encouraged to bring in items for future monthly raffles, which will resume in September.

CLUB EVENTS

Douglas Grodt, who leads easy hikes for Newcomers members on Thursdays, said the next hike will be July 9 at the West Bench area of the Grand Mesa. While the Grand Mesa is cooler than the Grand Valley and therefore an escape from the heat, Douglas has received reports of significant smoke on the mesa -- an unusual occurrence. For that reason, he noted that anyone with breathing issues or smoke sensitivity should be aware of conditions there.

Ken Seitz reported that the next Wine Club tasting event will be August 13 from 4-6 pm at the Art Center of Western Colorado. Greek wines will be sampled for a cost of \$25 per person. The deadline for making reservations is August 6.

Ken Seitz also reminded the group that the Annual Labor Day BBQ will be Monday, September 7, from 5-8 pm, at the Grand Pavilion at Canyon View Park. Cost will be \$13 per person for members and \$20 per person for non-members. Sign-up forms are available on the Newcomers Club website (gjnewcomers.org) under Meetings and Events. The form is also the last page of the monthly newsletter.

President Gary thanked Ken and Lisa for stepping up to organize the Labor Day event, and called on other members to step up to manage the club's annual Holiday Party. "When I sent out an email asking for a volunteer, I got zero responses," he said. "Without someone to pull the Holiday Party together, we might have to cancel it this year, and no one wants to do that." Former party organizers are available to provide help and suggestions.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stan Zygmunt, a Newcomers member who volunteers for New Dimensions Lifelong Learning Institute, said that the curriculum development team is working steadily on



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the fall-winter term. More than 95 classes are already on the calendar on a wide range of topics. In the meantime, Midday with New Dimensions has two upcoming hour-long classes, free to the public. On July 9, Dr. Holly Oberle, Colorado Mesa University assistant professor-International Relations, will discuss "Lessons from Other Developing Democracies" at the (air-conditioned) Clifton Branch library. On August 6, preparedness expert Rob Hunter will do a presentation on "Wildfires: How to Prepare" at the (also air-conditioned) Central Library.

Susan Norton, a Newcomers member who volunteers for The Art Center of Western Colorado, said that the next Music in the Grapevines summer concert will take place at Two Rivers Winery on July 21. Exit 42, a local group that has been playing together for more than 30 years, will play. Gates open at 6 pm; the concert runs from 7-9 pm. Advance tickets are available for \$20 per person on artcenterguild.org or at The Art Center of Western Colorado gift shop. Tickets are available for \$25 per person at the gate, although recent concerts have sold out.

Two representatives from Hilltop Community Resources -- **Mary Miot**, volunteer manager, and **Elisa Mackey**, development specialist -- invited Newcomers to the annual Desert Bloom Bash fund-raising event on August 29, 4:30-10 pm at Absolute Prestige Ranch in Loma. The event includes a cocktail hour, catered barbeque dinner and live music. Tickets start at \$175 each and can be purchased on Hilltop's website, htop.org. Proceeds from the 2026 Desert Bloom Bash go to support Hilltop's Connections Program, which offers services to the area's unhoused young people from ages 13 - 22 -- including outreach on the street, food, shower facilities and temporary and emergency shelter. In addition to attending the event, **Mary Miot** invited the group to volunteer at the Bash event or at other Hilltop projects, to help create a community where everyone belongs. To volunteer, go to htop.org and click on the volunteer icon.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Peter Booth, a long-time museum professional and current assistant director at The Art Center of Western Colorado, talked about the center's plans to upgrade its facility and expand its already successful programs. The plans are called TLC for TAC -- short for Tender Loving Care for The Art Center. "Our mission is to create an authentic creative community that provides economic

and social benefits," he said. "I think we're doing an exceptional job of that, despite some challenges." The Art Center offers 23 exhibits a year, showcasing the work of 500 artists, many of whom are local. It offers an extensive art education program, with classes for kids, adults and people with physical and developmental disabilities. It also serves as a welcoming venue for local performing arts groups, civic groups, Colorado Mesa University students -- and Newcomers Wine Club. "People find art and culture projects inspiring, and that helps draw businesses to our community." Under the TLC for TAC initiative, The Art Center would upgrade its physical location -- from repairing the roof to enhancing security to adding an integrated sound system to introducing more landscaping and a sculpture garden. In addition to a general spruce-up, the center hopes to continually refresh and upscale its programs and its partnerships to solidify its position as a community creative hub. "We're looking to the future and, while we want to stay where we are, we may grow into a second location at some point," he concluded.

-- Lois Leach, Secretary

MEMBER NOTES

We added five members this month. Welcome to you all!

Elizabeth Burk, from Tennessee. 915 22 ½ Rd, GJ 81505. 916-704-0204. 4elizabethann@gmail.com

Justin Davis, from Grand Junction. 432 ½ Jornada St, GJ 81504. 970-986-0304. justinjd7@gmail.com

Julie Snyder, from Chadron, NE. 516 Tiara Dr, GJ 81507. 308-430-0704. jksnyderjb@gmail.com

Joyce Gilligan and Henry Rutherford, from Wyoming. 298 Kaley St, Fruita 81521. 307-631-6589. j.gilligan0530@gmail.com

Labor Day BBQ

This year's Newcomers Club Labor Day Barbeque is Monday, September 7, at Canyon View Park. See the last page of this newsletter for the registration form.



COMMUNITY DOINGS

Food Truck Fridays will be taking place around town all summer. **August 7** at Lincoln Park, and **August 21** at Reed Park. 5-8:30pm.

<https://www.grandvalleyfoodtruckfridays.com/>

Join GJ Parks and Recreation for a **Downtown Plant Walk** on **Wednesday, August 12** or **Saturday, August 15**. A member of the city's Horticulture Team will share their knowledge. Walks start at various coffee shops (check your registration) and include a cup of coffee or tea. 9-10:30 am. \$7, register here:

<https://www.gjcity.org/>

The **Palisade Historical Society's** monthly history talk will be on **Thursday, August 13**, topic and speaker TBD. 6-7 pm at the Palisade Community Gym at 711 Iowa Ave in Palisade. Free admission (donations welcome).

The Theater Project will present **Nunsense II: The Second Coming** on **Friday, August 14** (7pm), **Saturday, August 15** (2pm and 7pm), and **Sunday, August 16** (2pm) at The Art Center. Tickets available at <https://theatreprojectgj.com/>, \$28-33.

The Grand Junction Sports Commission is hosting the **Just Peachy 5k and 10k** races on **Saturday, August 15**. A fun race for families and beginners! Take in the beautiful views in Palisade, registration includes t-shirt, medal, *peaches!*, entry to Peach Fest, and pancake breakfast. Events start at 8:30am - registration details can be found here:

<https://www.grandjunctionsports.org/justpeachy>.

The **Western Colorado Senior Games** is a weeklong competition for athletes 50 and better that will take place from **Monday, August 17** through **Sunday, August 23**. Come compete in a wide range of sports - from golf to pickleball to horseshoes (and many more). Registration fees vary, schedule here:

<https://www.gjparksandrec.org/1139/Seniors-Games-Schedule>

58th Annual **Palisade Peach Festival** at Riverbend Park in Palisade, **Saturday, August 21** and **Sunday, August 22**. All kinds of peach-based fun: live music, food,

contests, family activities, demonstrations, vendors. Tickets are \$10-40. More details and schedules here: <https://palisadecoc.com/events/palisadepeachfest/>

Fruita Thursday Night Concert Series - Enjoy a free outdoor concert (bring your own lawn chair!) at the Fruita Civic Center Park every Thursday from 7:30-10 pm. This year's lineup:

- **Aug 6:** THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS
- **Aug 13:** THE KELLI BAKER BAND FEAT. NOA SOCHA, Blues / Rock

Music in the Grapevines – This summer outdoor concert series benefits the Western Colorado Center for the Arts. Bring a chair and the enjoy music, beverages, and beautiful scenery at Two Rivers Winery. Gates open at 6 pm; show starts at 7. gjartcenter.org

- **August 18:** FEEDING GIANTS
- **Sept. 9:** STILL HOUSE STRING BAND

Some doings at Mesa County Libraries (Mesacountylibraries.org) include:

- Aug. 1. Take and Make craft kits available for pickup starting today, for kids and adults.
- Aug. 6, 2-4 pm. Artist in Residence Meet and Greet: Ian Janco. 970West Studio.
- Aug. 12, 5-7 pm. Dungeons & Dragons for Adults. Clifton Branch.
- Aug. 12, 6-7:45 pm. Poetry Night. Listen, and if you like, share your poetry. Central Library Mesa Room.
- Aug. 13, 5:30-7 pm. Books on Tap. Meet to discuss books you're currently reading. Colorado Craft Coffee and Beer House.
- Aug. 18, 10:30-11:30 am. Crafting for Adults. Supplies provided. Fruita Branch.
- Aug. 22, 9:30-10:30 am. Discovery Garden Demonstration Days, join the garden coordinator to participate in seasonal activities (tools and gloves provided). Central Library Discovery Garden.



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- Aug. 25, 10:30-11:30 am. Crafting for Adults. Supplies provided. Fruita Branch.
- Aug. 26, 5-7 pm. Dungeons & Dragons for Adults. Clifton Branch.
- Aug. 27, 5:30-7:30 pm. Mesa County Libraries Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. Central Library Community Room.

Weekend Book Sale Friends of the Mesa County Libraries will hold their weekend book sales on **Fridays and Saturdays, August 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29** from **9 am to 2 pm** at the First Congregational Church (Across from Grand Junction High School). Great prices on used books, DVDs, CDs, and more - cash, check, credit card, and Venmo are accepted. Free admission, proceeds benefit Mesa County Libraries programs and projects.

Name Badges

We suggest you keep your name badge in your car so it will always be handy. If you don't already have a magnetic name badge, you can order one from **Alberta Husch** for \$12.50 (new price). Email her at aahusch@gmail.com.



New Dimensions Lifelong Learning, a volunteer nonprofit organization, provides continuing education classes each fall and winter/spring for adults aged 50+. Information is available at www.newdimensionsgj.org.

The New Dimensions Curriculum Development Committee continues to work on the fall term and already has 95+ classes on the term's calendar. Look for the complete class list online on September 2. Fall term classes listed include:

- Palisade Insectary Tour
- Fall Yard Care During Drought
- Finding Purpose and Connection in Later Life
- Genealogy – Digging Deeper & Breaking Down Walls

- Where Does the Colorado River End?
- Drone Photography -- A Different Perspective
- Wills and Trusts and Durable Powers -- Oh My!
- The Ransomware Epidemic Explained

Until the term rolls around, Midday with New Dimensions lectures fill the gap.

Midday with New Dimensions is a partnership between Mesa County Libraries and New Dimensions Lifelong Learning, offering free public lectures based on past New Dimensions classes. Seating is first come, first served. Lecture information can be found on the Mesa County Libraries' event calendar at <https://mesacountylibraries.org/events/>.

Midday with New Dimensions offers a one-hour lecture titled **Wildfire: Prepare, Evacuate, Survive!** presented by Rob Hunter at the Mesa County Central Library, 443 N. 6th Street, at noon, on Thursday, August 13. Rob Hunter is a personal and community preparedness expert who helps communities prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters.

Join us to learn about wildfire - the most common natural hazard in Mesa County. You will learn the most important steps you can do to protect your home from wildfire. You will learn how to know when you need to evacuate and what you should do ahead of time to prepare. Survivors of the Marshal Fire share lessons learned, both successes and failures, through exclusive video interviews.

On Tuesday, September 8, noon, **Midday with New Dimensions** offers a one-hour lecture titled **A Virtual Tour of the Mesa County Elections Department** presented by Bobbie Gross at the Mesa County Clifton Library, 3270 D 1/2 Rd. Bobbie is the current Mesa County Clerk and Recorder and has worked in the Elections Department for nine years. With the help of video, Bobbie will give a virtual tour of the Elections Department Facility.



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August Activities

	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 a local non-profit or other organization. Meetings conclude around 11 am. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 12.
	ARMCHAIR TRAVEL Armchair Travel is on hiatus for the summer.
	BOOK CLUB Book Club is on hiatus for the summer.
	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 \$9 for three games. Shoes are available for rental. For information, phone or text Michael Shea at 970-663-3238, 970-213-4859, or dakotah1001@msn.com.
	DINNER CLUB The Dinner Club is on hiatus for the summer.



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HAPPY HOUR

Mark your calendars for the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month, usually from 5 to 7 pm. Look for an email with the location.

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.



KNITTING

Knitting group meets all summer at Sherwood Park on the **3rd Monday** of the month at **1:30 pm**.



MAH JONGG

The **Thursday** morning Newcomers Mahjongg group plays from **9 to 11 am** each week. Interested players can contact **Nancy H.** for details.



MOVIE CLUB

Movie Club is on hiatus for the summer.



NEEDLECRAFTERS

Needlecrafters is on hiatus for the summer.



SINGULAR DINERS

Singular Diners is for those who want to experience the various restaurants in the Grand Valley but hesitate to dine alone. The next lunch will be **July 15** at **noon** on the patio at Tiara Rado Golf Course Restaurant: 2057 S. Broadway. Please confirm your attendance to **Lina Palomo** (626) 993-7046 or bluetopaz1129@yahoo.com.



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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.



TOUR AND LUNCH

Tour and Lunch is on hiatus for the summer.



WINE CLUB

We had a wonderful wine tasting of Eastern European wines in June with over 50 people attending. Our next wine tasting will be held on **Thursday, Aug. 13** from **4-6 pm** at the Art Center. We will be tasting wines from Greece. Cost is \$25 per person. Deadline to reserve a spot is August 6. Please make checks out to Newcomers Club and mail to Ken Seitz, 2675 Autumn Brook Ct, Grand Junction 81506. Any questions about the wine club, please contact **Lisa** at 303-263-4391 or at lisa.seitz623@gmail.com.

Executive Board 2025-2026

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

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, \$30 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.



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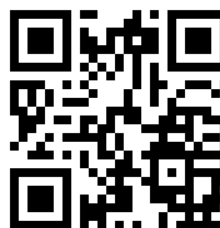


FREE AND FUN NEXT MONTH

Date	What	Where	Time	More Information
7	First Friday	The Art Center	6:30 – 8 pm	https://www.gjartcenter.org/
7	Free Admission at Museum of the West		10 am – 4 pm	https://museumsofwesternco.org/
28	Fruita Fourth Friday: Art, Music, Food	Mulberry Plaza	5 – 8 pm	www.fruita.org
13	Midday with New Dimensions—Wildfire: Prepare, Evacuate, Survive!	Central Library	Noon – 1 pm	https://mesacountylibraries.org

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.



Scan to access
gjnewcomersclub.org



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Please contact **Karen Dreher** if you know of someone in the club who needs a card:
303-475-5776 (text preferred),
niagaraway@comcast.net



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Grand Junction Newcomers Club 2026 Labor Day Barbeque Reservation Form

Event Date: Monday, September 7, 2026
Event Time: 5pm to 8pm
Event Location: Canyon View Park,
Grand Shelter Event
Cost: \$13 per member, \$20
for non-members

Member Name(s): _____

Member Phone #: _____

Member Email Address: _____

No. of Members Attending: _____

Number of Meat Meals: _____

Number of Vegetarian Meals: _____

PLEASE KEEP BOTTOM PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

Event Details:

Food menu will be: Pulled pork and chicken, roasted potatoes, cole slaw and cookies. We will provide a vegetarian option upon request. Beverages provided: water (you may bring your own alcohol in plastic containers-no glass) Pavilion seating is limited to 112, so reservations will be on a **first come, first serve basis**.

Cutoff for reservations will be Monday August 31st

Make check payable to: **Grand Junction Newcomers Club** and mail to: Ken Seitz 2675
Autumn Brook Ct. Grand Junction, CO 81506