



**Blue River Staff Report**  
December 2023

Town of Blue River  
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Blue River, CO 80424

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## 2023 Year in Review

### Programs

- Weed & Seed Program
  - The Town hosted the fourth annual Weed & Seed Program for noxious weed mitigation. The program ran July 1-September 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 2,400 pounds of weeds were pulled and removed from properties and three pounds of wildflower seeds were distributed. The Town helped to promote Boy Scout Troop 187 and their fundraising efforts which assisted owners of properties to have weeds removed while supporting the Boy Scouts. The Town participated in Summit County's Weed Pull Event pulling weeds at Town Park.
- Clean-up Day
  - The Town hosted a clean-up day in May along with Summit County and other municipalities. Two 30-yard dumpsters were filled and Town staff collected two truckloads of trash that was collected along the town roads and Hwy 9.
- Lessons In the Park
  - The Town hosted two lessons in the park centered around defensible space and weed mitigation.
- Community Chats
  - Formally known as Trustee Talks, the Town hosted two Community Chats at Town Park.
- Resident Grant Program
  - The Citizen Advisory Committee reimagined the Town incentive programs and developed the Resident Grant Program. The grant program provides incentives for residents to obtain bear resistant trash cans, natural night sky adaption for lighting around their home and defensible space/home hardening.
- Wildfire Defensible Space Grants
  - The Town participated with the Summit County Wildfire Council defensible space program. Eleven homes participated removing 517 trees on 11.74 acres in zones 1 and 2 for defensible space. Over 25% of homes in Blue River have worked on defensible space and fire mitigation.

## **Grants**

- The Town received a \$150,000 grant from the Colorado State Forest Service to address hazard trees in the right-of-way along town roads.
- The Town was awarded \$27,413.75 for defensible space projects through Summit County Wildfire Council.
- The Town has applied for a \$7 million grant with the Colorado Broadband Office to partner with the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County to bring fiber to the Town of Blue River.

## **Committees**

- Citizen Advisory Committee
  - Awarded one \$1,500 scholarship to a local high school senior.
  - Developed the Resident Grant Program
  - Promoted Trunk or Treat
  - Conducted a survey of town residents for a dark sky designation.
  - Promoted: Clean-up Day; Weed & Seed Program and Lessons in the Park
- Open Space & Trails Advisory Committee
  - Assisted with the development of a digital town map of trails and open space
  - Conducted two trail tours with the Board of Trustees
  - Identified a trail easement for the Board of Trustees that was acquired.

## **Roads**

- The Town hired a new roads contractor for summer road maintenance.
  - 1,800 tons of road base was added to roads
  - Earth bind was applied to Spruce Creek Road
- Engineering
  - The Town Engineers continue work for solutions for Spruce Creek Road.
  - The Town Engineers began work developing a maintenance and drainage improvement plan for Startlit, Sherwood and Blue Grouse

## **Technology**

- The Town installed a new AV system in the Town Hall meeting room to better facilitate hybrid meetings.
- A keyless door entry system and building security cameras were installed around the Town Hall building.

## **Administration**

- The Town is fully staffed with two administrative personnel and four police officers.
- The Board of Trustees finalized and adopted the Town's Land Use Code.
- The Town had a clean audit and remains in a good financial condition and good standing with the State of Colorado.
- Town has representation on county-wide committees including Summit County Wildfire Council; Summit County Transit Authority; Colorado Department of Transportation Intermountain Transit Authority; Upper Blue Planning Commission; Quandary Trail Head Stakeholders Committee; Zero Waste Task Force; Mountain Ideal Stewardship; HC3 Climate Action Committee; and Summit County Public Information Officers Committee.

## Blue River Municipal Court Statistics 2019-2023

- Tickets Processed:
  - 2019 – 250
  - 2020 – 315
  - 2021 – 305
  - 2022 – 145
  - 2023 – 190

### Town Statistics

Facebook Page Likes  
Town-1,300  
Police Department-901  
Instagram-1,246 followers  
Twitter (X)-76 followers  
Threads-103  
Residents on Email List-998  
Blue River News-1,178

Business Licenses-256

Lodging Registrations-219

### Municipal Court December 2023

Total tickets written for November Court: 42  
Total on the December Docket: 13  
Total December Failure to appear(s): 2  
Total December OJW(s): 2

### Building Statistics

November 2023

Permits Issued: 13

YTD: 220

Inspections: 46

New Construction 2023: 3

Certificates of Occupancy 2023: 8



## Year in Review

- Blue River Police Department is the smallest agency in Summit County. However, the department has the same responsibilities, liabilities, and expectation of service as other larger agencies. Blue River PD provides this service with significantly less staff and resources as other agencies. Generally, a police department would have civilian administrators or supervisory staff that would manage the immense administrative duties of a department, like training records, the sex offender registry, compliance with the Colorado Crime Information Center and National Crime Information Center, vehicle maintenance, policies and procedures, budgets, evidence custodians, records management, and criminal and juvenile procedures and much more. Blue River PD relies heavily on its limited staff to cover these administrative duties in addition to routine patrol and response to calls for service.
- According to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation both violent crimes and aggravated assaults have been on a steady rise in Colorado since 2019, these crimes are at record highs, and above the national average. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is also reporting similar trends with police officers killed in the line of duty over the same time frame.
- In July of 2022 Blue River PD stopped actively patrolling in Breckenridge as this was not an effective use of department resources. Statics prior to this time will include the department's efforts in Breckenridge and are very difficult to separate out. Blue River PD's efforts and resources since July of 2022 have been more focused on the safety of this community.
- Calls for service have increased and are at the highest they have been in than the last five years at over 2150. 2021 = 1961 calls for service, 2022 = 1589 calls for service. This is due particularly to proactive work from our current staff. Traffic Stops and Area Patrols are up on average. Our officers are making more contacts with the public, but number of citations remains average compared to the last five years at 233. Officers are using better discretion when issuing citations and using the lowest level of appropriate enforcement to change behaviors. This is evident in the very low number of citations that are contested in municipal court. Offenders are paying their citations at a higher rate than in previous years.
- According to motor vehicle accident (MVA) reports filed with the State for the Town of Blue River, the number of accidents in the last two years are almost doubled previous years. In 2022 and 2023 Blue River PD completed 29 MVA reports each year, with one fatality report conducted by Colorado State Patrol. In 2021 only 16 MVA reports were completed. This statistical anomaly may be due to the lack of reports properly completed or submitted to the State prior to 2022.

YEAR	TOTAL ACCIDENT REPORTS	# ON HWY 9	# OF VEHICLES	# OF TOWED VEHICLES DUE TO DAMAGE
2021	16	?	?	?
2022	29	23	32	18
2023	29	22	39	12

- The number of arrests annually has almost tripled as compared to prior years in Blue River. From 2019 to 2022 the average number of arrests is 12 annually. In 2023, our department completed 33 arrests.
- The number of Driving Under the Influence cases has gone from an average of 4 to 12 in 2023.
- The number of Domestic Violence cases has increased from an average of 2 annually to 8 in 2023.
- The number of Motorist Assists has increased from an average of 51.5 annually to more than 82 in 2023.

**Other significant advancements completed in 2023**

- Only half the vehicles in the department's fleet were equipped with cages to safely transport detainees in 2022. This meant that officers transporting offenders or detainees were exposed to being assaulted from the backseat with kicks, spitting or other means, because there was no barrier. This was a significant officer safety and detainee issue. All patrol vehicles have been upgraded and outfitted with the proper equipment to safely transport detainees.
- The department did not own any weapons in 2022 and the patrol vehicles did not have a secure means to transport long guns: shotguns and patrol rifles. This created a huge liability issue with officers providing their own guns with no standardized protocols, maintenance, or management. If a personally owned weapon malfunctioned in the line of duty causing damage, the liability for damages would have been extensive. Currently, all patrol vehicles are equipped with appropriate gun mounts. Officers are issued and trained on standardized department patrol rifles and shotguns. All weapon systems utilized by officers are now regulated and authorized through policy, training, and maintenance protocols.
- All patrol vehicles were updated in 2023 to include:
  - Advanced radar units.
  - Wifi modems to maintain connectivity with the criminal data base through mobile data computers.
  - Mobile finger printer readers were acquired for each officer, which enhanced their ability to identify uncooperative subjects.
  - Industry standard computer mounts for safe and effective operations.
  - The department is now able to maintain mandated training certifications in-house as all officers are instructors in the required disciplines. Our department does not need to rely on any outside agency to complete re-certifications. This includes disciplines like arrest control, firearms, radar operators, standardized field sobriety tests, and more. The Colorado police officer standards board requires officers to complete 24 hours of annual

training to maintain their certification. Blue River Officers completed over 334 hours for an average 83 hours of training each.

- With significant improvements in the department's equipment, policies, training, and focused proactive patrol efforts in Blue River we have been able to greatly improved our service to our community. There is still room for growth and the department continues to update and add equipment, improve training and work with the community to increase its capabilities for better service.

End of Month Report: November 2023

### **Calls for Service**

Total number of a calls: 179

Top 10 calls as follows:

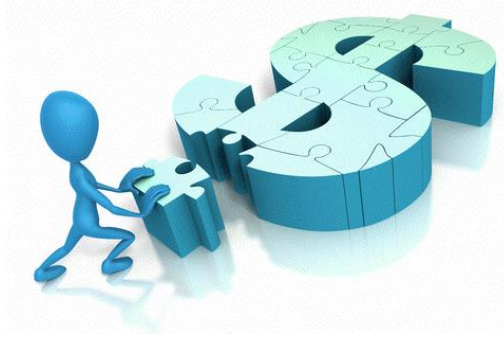
Area Patrol	81
Traffic Stops	30
Motorist Assists	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5
Welfare Check	5
Other Agency Backup	4
Suspicious Person	3
Harassment	3
Abandoned Vehicle	3
Road Hazard	3

**Summary:** The department's focus has shifted from proactive traffic enforcement to more neighborhood area patrols. However, Hwy 9 continues to garner a majority of calls for accidents, assists, and road hazards with the icy driving conditions.

**Arrests:** DUI = 1, misdemeanor = 1.

### **Current Administrative Focus**

- Staffing – annual compliance review and training are being finalized.
- Patrol Vehicles– continue to experience routine maintenance issues.
- Technology – the department experienced a set back with mobile computers due to a wiring issue in one of the patrol vehicles. The wiring issue has been resolved and replacement parts have been ordered. However, there appears to be a supply issue and its unknown when the replacements will be available.



## Financial Summary Report

Prepared by: Michelle Eddy, Town Manager  
 Month Ending November 30, 2023

### Revenues/Expenditures:

Revenues are tracking ahead of budget by 8.23%. Sales tax is tracking ahead of budget. Building has exceeded projects with many small permits, additions and remodels. Other income including interest on investments are ahead of budget. Court is tracking with budget. Expenditures are above budget by 11.97%. Utilities continue to increase in expense primarily at Town Hall. Auto repairs are exceeded budget due to unforeseen repairs on the 2015 sedans. The Town is sitting in a good position and staying on track with planned revenues and expenditures.

### Reserve Accounts \*As of 11/30/2023

#### Unrestricted

Reserve accounts Alpine Bank:	\$1,397,108.45
CD's Citywide Bank:	\$211,498.41
Colorado Trust Assigned to Capital:	\$3,060,103.67
Colorado Trust Assigned to Broadband:	\$100,806.29
CSAFE:	\$100.00
Illiquid Trust Funds:	\$1,187.42
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$4,770,804.24</b>

#### Restricted

American Rescue Plan Funds:	\$236,573.08
Conservation Trust:	\$139,164.00
<b>Total Reserves Restricted</b>	<b>\$375,737.08</b>





# Town of Blue River

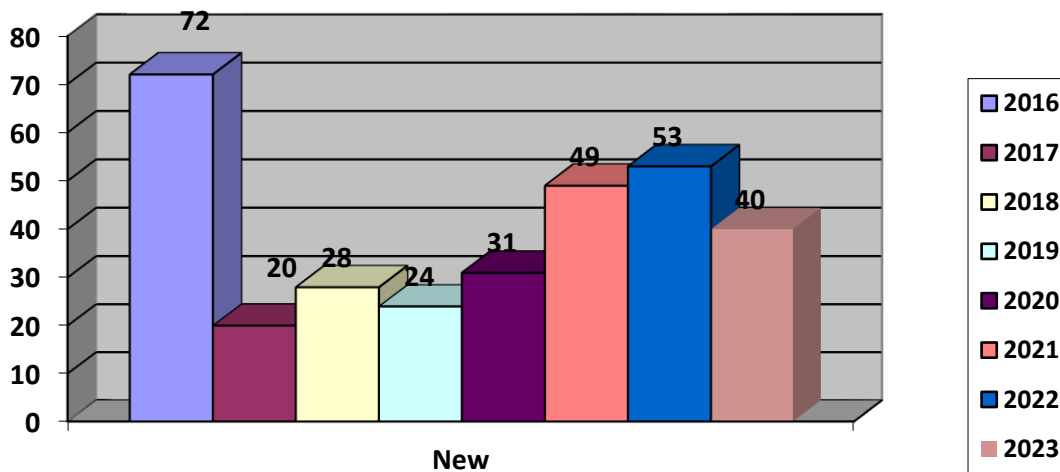
**Staff Report**  
**Short-term Rental Update**  
**December 13, 2023**  
**Submitted By: Michelle Eddy, Town Manager**

## Statistics

Issued by Year

2016	72	*Previous number included previous years prior to Town taking over program
2017	20	
2018	28	
2019	24	
2020	31	
2021	49	
2022	53	
2023	40	

**Total Active Licenses as of 12/6/2023: 219**



**New (never rented before) Licenses by year:**

- 2017-20
- 2018-25
- 2019-20
- 2020-25
- 2021-43
- 2022-35
- 2023-26

**License turnover (STR one owner to the next):**

- 2017-0
- 2018-3
- 2019-4
- 2020-6
- 2021-6
- 2022-18
- 2023-14

**Annual Revenue**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sales Tax</b>	<b>Lodging Tax</b>
<b>2016</b>	\$264,757.05	\$123,742.00
<b>2017</b>	\$237,468.92	\$126,585.55
<b>2018</b>	\$286,968.54	\$155,511.07
<b>2019</b>	\$425,616.72	\$166,883.33
<b>2020</b>	\$842,141.13	\$176,339.81
<b>2021</b>	\$844,558.23	\$228,743.34
<b>2022</b>	\$1,002,256.27	\$327,762.62
<b>2023</b>	\$919,874.00	\$287,918.07

## Percentage of STRs by Subdivision

***\*\*Please note the percentage of STRS is based on total homes built within each subdivision and NOT buildable lots.***

Subdivision	Built Lot	# STR	%STR **	% Build Out	% Full-Time Res.
96 Sub	37	10	27%	90%	30%
97 Sub	41	10	24%	84%	37%
Aspen View	16	7	44%	80%	13%
Blue Rock Springs	50	13	24%	93%	46%
Bryce Estates	4	1	25%	57%	0%
Clyde Lode	1	0	0%	50%	0%
Coronet	31	10	32%	78%	35%
Crown	67	22	33%	93%	28%
DOT Condo	36	6	14%	100%	31%
DOT Placer	2	0	0%	50%	100%
Golden Crown	5	3	60%	63%	20%
Lakeshore	40	12	30%	93%	23%
Leap Year	21	8	38%	91%	43%
Louise Placer	8	4	50%	73%	13%
McCullough Gulch	3	1	33%	43%	67%
Misc Sec TR7-77 Land	5	0	0%	22%	40%
Mountain View	44	13	27%	96%	34%
New Eldorado Sub	8	4	50%	73%	38%
New Eldorado Townhomes	9	1	11%	100%	56%
Pennsylvania Canyon	2	0	0%	100	0%
Pomeroy	0	0	0%	0%	0%
Rivershore	5	0	0%	63%	0%
Royal	67	16	24%	94%	31%
Sherwood Forest	78	19	24%	90%	23%
Silverheels	4	1	25%	67%	29%
Spillway	20	2	11%	90%	25%
Spruce Valley Ranch	45	0	0%	68%	20%
Sunnyslope	30	12	40%	86%	33%
Timber Creek Estates	71	27	38%	89%	7%
Wilderness	55	17	31%	96%	33%

## General Statistics

- Total Percentage of short-term rentals **27%**
- “Local” Breckenridge, Dillon, Frisco or Silverthorne addresses with STR License: 26 or 12%

## Code Violations 2015-2023

<b>Total Violations:</b>	<b>302</b>
Violations for STR’s while licensed as an STR:	141 (47%)
Percentage of Repeat Offenders:	1%

## 2024 Renewals

Renewal letters were sent out November 8, 2023. Renewals are due December 31, 2023.

### 11/8/23

Total Licenses:	222
Eligible Renewals Sent:	153
Ineligible Letters Sent:	69

### As of 12/13/2023

Total Licenses	219
License Renewals:	105
Remaining Ineligible:	42