



**TRAVIS ELLIOTT
TOWN MANAGER**

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TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Travis Elliott, Town Manager
CC: Town Staff
DATE: February 11, 2022
RE: Info Update

113 DAYS UNTIL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Our discussions with potential private operator(s) to take over the rental and business operations of TOP Adventures for the summer of 2022 are progressing well. As you know, the Town has traditionally operated and subsidized TOP Adventures to make the amenity attractive to visitors and accessible to residents. However, it requires a lot of staff time and resources from the Town to keep it “a-float.” We think this potential public-private partnership will be a win-win, and the right operator will be able to take TOP Adventures to the next level and attract even more visitors to Town.

The terms of a lease agreement are still being drafted. Ultimately, any lease or license agreements will need to be approved by the Town Council, but please let me know if you have any questions or concerns with this approach.

REGIONAL HOUSING COALITION

Jurisdictions from throughout the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys have been meeting over the past year+ to discuss creating a regional Housing Coalition. Their goal is to develop a regional strategy to address the housing crisis, as well as be prepared for the surplus of grant funding that is expected to hit the state coffers from ARPA. The group recently invited municipalities further down the Colorado River Valley to join them (Parachute, Rifle, Silt, and New Castle), and they are requesting each entity contribute \$10,000 in seed capital to take the next steps to create a 501©3 and governance structure for this housing coalition.

I’ve informed the group that we really appreciate the invitation, and we would like to participate in the conversation, but we will need more information before committing to anything further. Staff will be monitoring the progress of this group, and we will keep you posted. If you want more information on this, or would like to discuss further, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

TID BITS:

- We received an additional grant request for \$250 from the high school to help pay for their prom dance. This wasn't in the list of approved grants for the 2022 budget. However, since we have extra unallocated funds in the grant budget, and because we have supported the prom in the past (prior to COVID-19), staff will be approving the grant to the students. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
- The annual Parachute Pick Up will be Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th. The Western Slope COGA will once again be participating and providing free food, and we will be coming up with all kinds of projects for volunteers to lend a hand on. All the cool kids will be there.
- We met with Garfield County and the School District to discuss their regional broadband plans. With any luck, the County will secure grant funding for a "meet me center" here in Parachute, likely at the high school. A letter of support for this project is on the council agenda for the meeting next week.
- We have lent a handful of our spare water filters to the Town of DeBeque and their water treatment plant. They have ordered new ones to replace ours, but they couldn't wait for them to arrive.
- Our Municipal Court on Monday will be all virtual, except for the Judge and Clerk.
- The Police Department's new body cams arrived this week, and they are working on getting them set up as I type this.
- Responses to the Town's RFP for Trash Service are due next week.
- Garfield Clean Energy (GCE) will be holding a Utility Bill Rebate Expo at the Parachute Library on March 14th. This will be a great opportunity for residents and businesses to find rebates for energy efficiency upgrades that will save them money.
- CR BOCES is continuing to evaluate the PW Shop site for their future tiny home manufacturing and teaching facility for students.
- Staff attended a meeting with the Grand Valley Parks Association earlier this week to begin planning for summer events. Mark your calendars: Grand Valley Days will be August 19, 20, and 21st
 - Rockmageddon returns: Friday, June 3 – Saturday, June 4.
- Town hall will be closed on Presidents Day, Monday, February 21st.
- We will be touring two retail marijuana stores on Monday, February 14th. If you would like to participate, please let me know. The more, the merrier.
- Save the date: the annual Energy & Environment Symposium is April 13-14, 2022. Please let us know if you would like to attend, and we can make the necessary arrangements.
- I met with Judith Hayward, President of the Historical Society today. She gave an excellent tour of the Battlement Mesa School House and history lesson of the Grand Valley.
- I am going to continue my efforts to meet with community stakeholders, businesses, and residents. If there is a particular organization or person you would like for me to meet, please let me know or make the introduction. I appreciate it.