



**TRAVIS ELLIOTT  
TOWN MANAGER**

*Integrity • Respect • Teamwork • Pride • Innovation • Diversity*

222 GRAND VALLEY WAY • PARACHUTE, CO 81635 • (970) 285-7630

TO: Mayor and Town Council  
FROM: Travis Elliott, Town Manager  
CC: Town Staff  
DATE: February 18, 2022  
RE: Info Update

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#### STRENGTHENING OUR CYBER SECURITY

As you are probably aware, we were hit with a phishing scam last week. One Town email account was compromised, but thankfully, our IT consultants ProVelocity determined that no real damage was done. These attacks are becoming more and more common, we are working to increase our cyber security to prevent this from happening again.

In the next two weeks, all Town email accounts (including Town Council's) will be required to enroll in MFA – Multi Factor Authentication. This adds a layer of security to your passwords to confirm you are who you say you are. In addition to entering your password, you will have to enter a code or verify your identity on an app when logging in for the first time, into an unknown device, or from an unfamiliar network. This method is commonly used for online bank account and even Facebook logins, and most people are familiar with it. Hopefully, this will prevent similar events from occurring in the future, and it will prevent unknown third parties from taking over an official TOP email account.

In addition to rolling out MFA, we are also implementing other cyber security tools for the Town and all staff:

1. All incoming emails that originate from outside a parachutecolorado.com email address will have a warning message at the bottom of the message. This serves primarily as a good reminder, and it also helps prevent scammers from successfully disguising themselves as Town employees.
2. We have enrolled in a FREE cyber security training program, courtesy of CIRSA (our insurance company), that will send all staff updates on the latest scams that hitting the internet community and quarterly training to keep us sharp and diligent.
3. We are also considering purchasing a service, called Threatlocker, that will automatically lockdown our computer systems and prevent any suspicious activity from taking place – such as downloading malware or ransomware to the Town network. This service is approximately \$160 / month, and we are currently evaluating its value.

## TRASH TALK

We received three bids to our Request for Proposals (RFP) for the town-wide solid waste hauling services. All three were very close in price, and using various criteria, the review committee has selected our current contractor, Dependable Waste Services, to continuing providing this service. We are providing them with an 'Intent to Award' notification, and their contract will be subject to Town Council approval at the March meeting.

## IF IT QUACKS LIKE A DUCK

We received a request from a Town resident to keep ducks on their property. Although the PMC allows for and has special conditions for chickens, it doesn't speak to their waterfowl companions - ducks. After much deliberation, we have decided to allow for the resident to keep ducks, subject to the same restrictions that are applied to chickens (less than six, no nuisances, kept in an enclosure, etc.). Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

## TID BITS:

- We are preparing for our annual audit process. As you probably know, this external third-party review verifies our books and financial procedures to ensure we are keeping the Town resources safe and secure. The auditors may request interviews with members of the Town Council, but we will let you know.
- The Town will be publishing our scholarship program application, which will award \$500 scholarships to up to three students. Details will be available on our website, [parachutecolorado.com](http://parachutecolorado.com).
- Staff are continuing to review the first full draft of the Comprehensive Plan. We hope to present it to the Planning Commission and Town Council next month, and we will be gathering additional community feedback before it is considered for formal adoption by Council later this year.
- We will be posting two excellent TOP employment opportunities to the Town website in the next couple of weeks: a Solid Waste Worker position and a Seasonal Parks Maintenance position. Please help us spread the word and recruit.
- We have published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Cardinal Way Parklet at Wasson-McKay park. Qualified contractors can find details to submit a bid on our town website, [parachutecolorado.com](http://parachutecolorado.com), under the public works page.
- (Virtual) Municipal Court was held on Monday.
- Public works will be busy with projects this summer. They are prepping for a variety of projects, including, but not limited to, street crack filling, building / installing multiple public restrooms, and the Cardinal Way parklet.
- Public Works will also be busy completing a Traffic Flagging certification training, which is held through CIRSA. We are partnering with the Town of DeBeque and the City of Rifle to coordinate the course with all of our respective crew members.
- The Police Department has new body cams up and running. The department is also working on updating their recording and use policy along with it.
- ICYMI, there was an excellent interview on KSUN radio Wednesday morning with the new Town Manager.
- Mark your calendars:
  - Parachute Pick Up is Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30
  - Rockmagedon returns: Friday, June 3 – Saturday, June 4.

- Grand Valley Days will be August 19, 20, and 21<sup>st</sup>
- Town hall will be closed on Monday for Presidents Day, February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 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.
- Two of our local retail marijuana stores hosted the Family Resource Center staff for tours on Monday. Their staff were extremely knowledgeable and professional, and it was an excellent opportunity to learn about the various cannabis products that are out to help identify them if/when they end up in the hands of underage individuals.
- We met with Lift Up this week and toured their facility on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. They want to add a pantry to their current space to allow for individuals to “shop” for their food donations. They are currently using the facility as a warehouse and for drive up service. They also have long term plans of expanding the space to expand the pantry and possibly bring the thrift store back.
- 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.