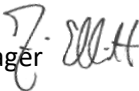




**TRAVIS ELLIOTT
TOWN MANAGER**

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: TOP Staff
DATE: March 17, 2023
RE: Info Update

ROAD WORK AHEAD

The Town of Parachute and MA Construction are excited to resume a waterline extension project at the intersection of Cardinal Way and CR 300. Phase 1 of this project was completed last fall. Phase 2 is now scheduled to commence within the next two weeks.

On Saturday, March 25th, (weather permitting) the contractors are planning a full closure of CR 300 for approximately 12 hours to allow for the waterline installation across the roadway. During this time, motorists will be directed to a detour via Cardinal and Grand Valley Way and should anticipate delays. This has been determined to be the best method to keep traffic delays to a minimum and complete the work safely. The road will be reopened as quickly as possible by utilizing road base and temporary cover. The roadway will then be repaired when Love's and XLNT complete the street improvements at the intersection for the new Travel Store. The project has been phased to minimize impacts and costs and to prevent any cuts to the newly laid asphalt roadway.

We are working in earnest to communicate these impacts and the 3/25 road closure to the community. Please help us spread the word. The link below will take you to a project area and detour route map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1e4TIHjE3D64PFRIGjIrtRpGEdiXptE8&usp=sharing>

GET ON THE BUS

Because everyone else is, at least according to our recent ridership numbers. PATS buses provided over 1500 rides in the first two months of 2023. That is nearly a 40% increase over the same time period a year ago. We would like to attribute a portion of this increase to the recent marketing campaign we conducted with Align. Our PATS promotional video was running on social media through March 14th. The video received over 80,000 views of 15 seconds or longer, and the Spanish version was the most popular and received 63% of the total views. During this same time period, site traffic on RidePATS.com INCREASED ALMOST 90%! Although we have concluded this particular ad campaign, we will continue our efforts to build on this success.

TRASH TALK

No, I'm not talking about March Madness. I'm talking about our residential garbage collection services. To ensure our utility billing practices are fair and consistent, we recently conducted an audit on all accounts. During this process, we discovered that many residential customers were not paying for trash service. Per our Town Code, all residential customers that receive water service must also participate in the town-wide residential garbage collection services – regardless if they actually utilize it. A correction letter was recently sent out to these customers informing them of the mistake, and they have been informed their monthly bill will now include the \$16.80 monthly charge. If you hear any complaints from these customers, please feel free to send them to me.

TID BITS:

- Event season is right around the corner, and staff are working hard at making the necessary plans. Highlights include a new 5k / Fun Run on May 4th, and we are close to announcing the lineup for the Rockmageddon concerts. We are also working with the PA and CDOT to host the Grand Valley Days Parade on 1st Street. It is safe to say you won't want to miss any of our fun events. Find a list of event dates below.
- Speaking of events, we are working with Garfield County Public Health and Early Morning Orchards in Palisade to possibly bring a produce stand / small farmers market to Parachute this summer. Stay tuned for details.
- We are continuing to work with the School District and Sheriff's Office to bring another SRO to our community for the 2023-2024 school year. The new IGA will likely be before Town Council for consideration.
- The RFP for Phase 2 of the Downtown Development Plan is now available on BidNet and our website. Bids are due April 10th.
- Vero's Mexican Bakery is now open in the Southgate Plaza, and I've gained 10-12 pounds since they started providing deliciousness to Town.
- We are working hard to modernize our application forms online. You can now submit web forms for things like permit applications, license applications, records requests, and to report possible code violations. Check it out!
- We were informed by the Colorado Trust that our Culmination Grant application for the PATS bus shelters was unsuccessful. Although they encouraged us to submit a new application, we have withdrawn from consideration at this time.
- The RFP for possible tenants in the Wasson McKay house is now LIVE and available on our website, parachutecolorado.com. The site walk and open house is scheduled for March 27th.
- ICYMI: The Town Council's decision to proceed with exploration of legal action against the USPS was in the Post Independent this week: [Parachute joins several Colorado towns considering action against US Postal Service | PostIndependent.com](https://www.postindependent.com/news/parachute-joins-several-colorado-towns-considering-action-against-us-postal-service)
- We are hiring! Two seasonal public works positions have been posted on our website. Please help us spread the word.
- The construction taking place near the Tesla charging station is a telecommunication project by Century Link to provide a new connection to the service station / Wendy's location. They are boring under the street, and the traffic impacts should be minimal.
- We have published the TOP scholarship application for GVHS students. We updated the criteria to be more geared towards students that have demonstrated community involvement and volunteerism. We will be awarding \$2,000 in scholarships this year, and Mayor Rugaard will present the awards at the ceremony on May 17th.

- If you know of anyone that might be interested (and qualified) to serve on Planning Commission, please have them submit a cover letter and resume to Lucy at lspalenka@parachutecolorado.com.
- Our downtown beautification grant application is now available online at parachutecolorado.com. Each grant awards 1st street businesses up to \$5,000 to beautify their storefront or landscaping.
- Upcoming Meetings and Events:
(please let us know if you plan to attend so we can track public noticing requirements)
 - The Drop In Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting – March 29, 2023
 - Parachute Pick Up – April 28 – 29, 2023 – Cottonwood Park
 - Wasson McKay Park Grand (RE)Opening – Thursday, May 4, 2023
 - Rockmageddon – June 1 – 4, 2023
 - Summer TOP Staff Family Barbecue – Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 5:30pm – Cottonwood Park
 - Grand Valley Days – August 18 – 20, 2023