



**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: April 15, 2022  
RE: Info Update

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#### THE PLANNING CONTINUES

We are continuing to seek feedback on the draft Comprehensive Plan. The planning team has been working hard to incorporate staff's edits and the community comments, and they finished updating the document this week. The Planning Commission commenced their review of the new draft this week at their meeting on 4/14. Three members of the community joined the meeting, and we had an excellent workshop meeting reviewing the documents and maps from the plan.

We were initially planning to ask the Town Council to review and adopt the plan at their meeting on 4/21. However, since we are still getting great feedback, and because there will be some new Council members, we have decided to push back this review until the 5/19 meeting. Town staff will still present an update to the Town Council on the process at the meeting next week. Please be sure to let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

#### TIME TO CELEBRATE

Congratulations! We found out this week that we were awarded both of our Garfield County FMLD grants. One was for \$25,000 for a Public Works Vehicle, and the larger grant was for \$101,000 for a water utility line project. Congrats to Stuart and the whole team for getting the successful applications together (just) in time.

#### QUICK THINKING

We are making good progress on the Wasson McKay parklet project. A lot of the landscaping and vegetation has been cleaned up along the creek, the old asphalt has been removed, and the utility trenches are in. Due to our Public Works crews being extra diligent and careful, we discovered Century Link Fiber lines where our restroom facility was planned to be located. We are lucky that they took the time to call for locates more than once and caught the error before digging.

We did some quick thinking on our feet, and we have moved the location of the restroom facility to be closer to the pedestrian bridge. We have also made other slight changes to the plans, such as re-routing

the fence around the home to keep it secure and removing the dog park portion on the side of the bridge. The rest of the project is proceeding as planned.

TID BITS:

- Roy, Tom, and I will be presenting at the “State of the Communities” in Rifle on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you would like to attend the luncheon.
- We are finalizing the plans, projects and details for the Town Clean Up day on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Postcards were mailed out this week. Please help us spread the word.
- The bid opening for two of our public works projects was this week – Town Hall HVAC repairs and Town street crack filling. The winning bids are on the Town Council agenda for 4/21 to award the contracts.
- A CDOT project to re pave and overlay I-70 from Parachute to Rulison begins on Monday. They are also replacing the burned wildlife fence.
- We are advertising for Mayor Roy McClung’s and Councilmembers Tim Olk and Shawn Stevenson’s send off on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The community is being invited to join us at 5:30pm before the meeting.
- Congratulations to Sergeant Justin Mayfield who completed another significant course and milestone in his FBI LEEDA certification.
- A new fence has been installed at the Cottonwood Park splash pad. This will keep children away from the dangerous equipment, and it makes us CIRSA compliant.
- We will begin charging late fees for utility bills again in June. Late fees have been on hiatus since the start of the pandemic.
- The PATS bus that was involved in the accident has been repaired and is back in the fleet.
- Kudos to our Public Works team. They are now Traffic Flagger certified, and will hopefully be safer as a result.
- Public works was busy this week doing wind damage patrol. As you probably noticed, the winds have been wreaking havoc.
- Public works has also been busy getting our irrigation ditches ready for water. We are on track to turn irrigation water on next week, 4/18. The water won’t be at full capacity until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please help us spread the word.
- I attended the Energy and Environment Symposium this week in New Castle. There were a wide variety of expert speakers that were able to shed some light on the future of the oil and gas industry in a world of uncertainty. I was also able to meet a lot of the operators and companies in the Piceance region, including Caerus, TEP, and Laramie. Also, shout out to Rory Birdsey who made an excellent host for one of the field tours to a well pad above Rifle.
- Mark your calendars:
  - Parachute Pick Up - Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30
  - Rockmagedon: Friday, June 3 – Saturday, June 4.
  - Grand Valley Days will be August 19, 20, and 21<sup>st</sup>