



**TRAVIS ELLIOTT
TOWN MANAGER**

Integrity • Respect • Teamwork • Pride • Innovation • Diversity

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Travis Elliott, Town Manager

CC: TOP Staff

DATE: July 22, 2022 &
July 15, 2022

RE: Weekly TOP Info Update

THE (tax) NUMBERS ARE IN

We've received the latest sales and lodging tax numbers for the month of May. Total sales tax was down 3.91% over May 2021. YTD, this leaves us down about 0.8% over the same time period from 2021. While this may seem like bad news, it appears that the dip is mostly isolated and due to a decline in marijuana sales tax. All other tax revenue, from lodging and sales, is up 15.5% YTD over the same period in 2021. Meanwhile, sales tax revenue from marijuana is down 33.4%. This explains the slight dip in tax revenue, despite sales from other sectors coming in strong.

While it is possible marijuana tax revenues will rebound through summer, we are expecting the general sales tax revenues to remain strong through the summer months. Lodging occupancy through the month of June was at ~81%, and the month of July is trending right around 80% occupancy as well. We won't have final sales tax revenue numbers for June for about another month, but these occupancy numbers are good forecast tools that indicate we will continue to see above average sales tax numbers.

GET ON THE BUS!

It is now easier than ever to find a PATS bus stop near you and catch the bus. PATS is now on Google Maps and other web-based mapping programs and apps. This technology conveniently displays PATS routes and schedules online, such as Google Maps. We are still working out the bugs, but it appears to be working well. The best part – CDOT is covering the ongoing maintenance and hosting costs through their partnership with Trillium.

We know not everyone uses web maps and applications, so, in addition, we are also working on improving the "old school" communication materials, and Sarah has recently made a wonderful new brochure. Look for it in stores near you!

TID BITS:

- The new Police Vehicle has arrived, and it is B-E-A-utiful!

- We will be posting the vacant Community / Economic Development Director position soon. It will be advertised internally, online, and across many different external websites. If you know of anyone that may be a good fit, please feel free to give them my contact info.
- We have received about \$5,800 from the state for our 2021 and 2022 YTD fuel tax credit. Kudos to Teresa for realizing that we were owed this money. We will be submitting for quarterly reimbursements moving forward. We are still working on getting our own fuel station for the future, and this will likely be a 2023 budget request.
- We have finished executing the amended agreement for GJ Adventures to purchase the river rental equipment. They paid just over \$12,000 for the inventory and CNG van. They returned the OHV RZRs and trailer. We plan to sell the OHVs, and other TOP vehicles that are being cycled out of the fleet later this year. The auction will be done through an online bidding website, and they will all be advertised locally and on our website.
- The extra mosquito treatments worked. Mosquito counts are way down at Cottonwood Park.
- The Splash Pad at Cottonwood Park has had a series of fits and starts. After replacing some of the controls, the button / switch shorted out. We have a new switch arriving today, and it should be back up and running before the weekend. We will also be installing new signage within the next two weeks to reinforce the rules (no smoking, no dogs, etc.)
- I attended the IMTPR meeting in Eagle last Friday to present our MMOF grant request. We are requesting \$150,000 to support our Downtown Development Plan and design work for the 1st Street corridor.
- We are preparing for our joint work session meeting with the Garfield BOCC on August 18th. If you have anything that you would like to see on the agenda, please let me know.
- Loves construction is progressing. Grading and site preparation continues, and they have started prepping the foundation area for the store. A lot of the utility and stormwater work is also starting to go into the ground.
- Public Works has done a great job limping our irrigation through the dog days of summer so far, but it is time to conduct surgery. They will be excavating a portion of pipe that is suspected to have a blockage.
- The next round of quarterly IT security training will be rolling out to staff soon.
- While we didn't receive a grant for bus shelters, we are still working with the Grand Valley Residents Team on ways to make PATS more convenient and comfortable for locals. We are meeting again this week to discuss possible funding opportunities.
- I attended the DeBeque Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 12th to formally propose Xcel energy work with regional jurisdictions to investigate the feasibility of a Powerline Trail from DeBeque to Rifle. The Planning Commission declined to include it as a condition of approval, but Xcel has been receptive to the idea. We will keep you posted.
- Upcoming Meetings and Events:
(please let us know if you plan to attend so we can track public noticing requirements)
 - Grand Valley Days will be August 19, 20, and 21st