



**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: December 9, 2022  
RE: Info Update

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**WELCOME, MICHAEL MARKUS – COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Please help me welcome the latest member of our team, Michael Markus. Michael has accepted an offer to be the Town's next Community and Economic Development Director. He will officially begin in his new role on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

A Colorado State University alumni, Michael has called Colorado home for a long period of time, and he currently lives in Grand Junction. He has most recently been doing Regulatory and Zoning consulting work for communications and oil and gas companies, which included Land Use Planning experience with the BLM and COGCC. He also has a long history of public service and local government experience – including as the Development Department Director for Natrona County Wyoming, and the Assistant County Planner for Montrose County.

We are very excited for him to join the team, and please help us welcome him to the community.

**PARTY ON**

Don't forget, the Town holiday party is next Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at El Tapatio. See you there.

**TID BITS:**

- November was a record-setting month for PATS ridership, and there were 779 riders in total throughout the month. Ridership overall continues to have an increasing trend. The previous record was in August of this year with 725 riders, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2022 are shaping up to be the busiest yet.
- Speaking of positive trends, sales tax numbers for October were strong. Total sales tax for the month was about 12% higher than October 2021. This leaves us about 9.2% over budget, YTD.
- The Planning Commission held a regular meeting yesterday, 12/8. The Trails Plan and an overview of an upcoming Land Use Code review was presented and discussed.
- We will be presenting an update on the Trails Plan to the Board of County Commissioners on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Additional Town Hall holiday hours and closures are coming up. Because the holidays fall over weekends, some of the closures will be observed on the day before or day after the actual holiday. We have updated our website and will post signs accordingly to inform the public.
  - Town Hall Upcoming Holiday Closures:
    - Christmas Eve Observed – Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Christmas Day Observed – Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>
    - New Years Day Observed – Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>
- PATS will not be running on the observed holidays for Christmas (Monday December 26<sup>th</sup>) and New Years (Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- The 12/15 Town Council meeting has been cancelled.
- We are working to communicate the upcoming bag fee of \$.10 beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, which was passed via state legislation in 2021. Per the Act, the Town will collect 60% of the fee revenue.
- We are also working to communicate the approved utility rate increases for 2023. Initial notices were included on this month's utility bills, and we have posted a notice on the website.
- The long awaited new slide for Cottonwood Park arrived and has been installed.
- The new Wayfinding signs are being installed. This project was (partially) funded by an AGNC grant.
- The lease for the CoWork space, as approved by Town Council, has been finalized and executed. Cheryl and CO is making final improvements, and we are working with Align to promote the space beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> – which is when the Town's lease begins.
- I participated on an RFP Selection Committee for the School Districts selection of a Facilities Evaluation contractor.
- Upcoming Meetings and Events:
 

*(please let us know if you plan to attend so we can track public noticing requirements)*

  - TOP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Parachute Pick Up – April 28 – 29, 2023