



**TRAVIS ELLIOTT
TOWN MANAGER**

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TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Travis Elliott, Town Manager
CC: TOP Staff
DATE: April 14, 2023
RE: Info Update

SURVEY SAYS!

The 2023 Community Survey announcement postcards have been sent out. As a reminder, each household within Town limits will be receiving paper copies of the survey or instructions on how to complete the questions online. After this initial wave, the online version will be opened to all community members, including residents outside of town limits, employees, guests, tourists, etc. The survey is available in both English and Spanish. Please tell your friends and neighbors to be on the lookout for this excellent opportunity to provide feedback to the Town.

SALES TAX & TAXES

The IRS income tax deadline approaching, but I have better news - Our local sales tax numbers for February are in, and the strong start to 2023 is continuing. The month of February came in nearly 28% higher than the same month in 2022. YTD, we are approximately 33% ahead of where we were at this same time in 2022. Lodging tax also continues to have strong receipts. Based on anecdotal information from a recent meeting we had with lodge owners, 2022 ended up being the “best year yet” in Parachute (since purchasing the properties circa 2015). Meanwhile, sales tax collections from Marijuana continue to lag behind the other categories. February MJ sales tax was even with 2022 collections, but that is down from 2021 by about 50%.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Town was informed this week that we were awarded a \$250,000 traditional grant through Garfield County FMLD for our Cardinal Way / CR 300 streetscape and sidewalk construction project. As you may recall, this project will construct new sidewalk to create a safe and seamless pedestrian connection to other businesses on Cardinal Way from the intersection of CR 300 / Cardinal Way. While we are extremely grateful for the FMLD funding, the project itself remains significantly over budget. We are working on solutions to cut expenditures while not sacrificing critical elements of the design. Needless to say, the \$250,000 grant will help tremendously, and we still expect to be able to complete this capital project in 2023. The Town Council should expect to see the contract award and budget supplement at a future council meeting(s).

TID BITS:

- Although the Town was successful in getting the FMLD traditional grant, we also found out that we did not receive the \$25,000 mini grant. This funding was going to be used to replace our existing skid steer, which is scheduled for replacement in the Town's CIP.
- The request for letters of interest from tenants for the Wasson McKay house closed on April 10th, and we did not receive any letters. We are extending the deadline to May 10, 2023.
- The Town sent a press release yesterday announcing the official lineup for the 2023 Rockmageddon concerts. Always check rockmageddon.com for the latest updates and info.
- Speaking of events, the May the Fourth Be With You 5k and Wasson McKay Grand (re)Opening is coming up. Check parachutecolorado.com for details, register for the 5k, and save the date: Thursday, May 4, 2023.
- Parachute Pick Up is also right around the corner: Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th. As a reminder, Friday will be dedicated to volunteering and community projects. Drop offs will be accepted on Saturday. The BoCC approved our request to reduce the landfill tipping fees by 50%.
- We were recently audited by CIRSA (our insurance company) for safety, and we passed with flying colors. We do have room for improvement, which we will be working on over the next month or two.
- Stay diligent with your email and cyber security. Several town employees and councilmembers recently received phishing emails. We are working with ProVelocity to determine how it wasn't detected by our filters.
- We received 7 applications from GVHS students for the Town's scholarship award. The winners will be presented by Mayor Rugaard on May 17th.
- The security cameras at Wasson McKay are now live. We are working with the company to deploy this cutting-edge technology at additional locations throughout this year. This was a budgeted project for 2023.
- If you have seen heavy roadside activity on Cardinal Way lately, it is because our waterline extension project near Cardinal Way has resumed. It should be completed by the end of next week.
- We are working on a remittance form to collect bag fees, which were implemented and required by the state.
- The potholes on Cardinal Way were recently repaired by our contractor. Kudos to public works for getting these taken care of quickly.
- You can blame the snow recently on the fact that we recently removed the plows and sand boxes from our public works trucks. We still have one ready to go, should we need it, but otherwise we are getting ready for warmer weather.
- One of our smaller pumps at the sewer lift station went down recently. We are working on the repairs and also making plans to have spares on hand for future issues that may arise.
- Irrigation water has been turned into the ditches, but we still have a series of repairs to make.
- Weed season is here. We are working on sending out some proactive educational materials to Town residents in the near future. We are also creating a "most improved yard" award to help incentivize property owners to improve their yards and mitigate weeds.
- The fiber project is progressing, and we are working with the County on next steps to locate the CNL at the public works property.
- Performance reviews have been sent out for all employees to complete their self-evaluations.
- We are getting the Visitor Center ready for the 2023 season.
- We have been reviewing utility analysis and financial forecasting software to help us budget for future capital expenditures and set future utility rate and tap fee amounts.

- The Planning Commission meeting was cancelled this week.
- We have posted two additional RFP / ITBs online for upcoming Town Projects: Sidewalk Repair and Maintenance and our Meadow Drive Street Replacement project. All details can be found on our website at [BIDS | Town of Parachute \(colorado.gov\)](https://www.parachutecolorado.com/bids)
- We are (still) hiring! After a series of interviews and unsuccessful offer attempts, we are back to recruiting for our seasonal public works positions. If you know anyone that might be interested, please have them complete an application online at parachutecolorado.com
- Speaking of recruiting - 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.
- Upcoming Meetings and Events:
(please let us know if you plan to attend so we can track public noticing requirements)
 - 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