



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: February 5 2021
Re: Info Update

POWDER IS GOOOOOOOOOD

Lots of powder is even better. Thank you Mother Nature.

ORANGE YOU GLAD WE AREN'T IN RED ANYMORE

On February 2, Pitkin County went from Red to Orange on the COVID Dial allowing many of the safety restriction to be decreased; most notably indoor dining was once again allowed, and more people could use our Recreation Center. Today the Governor announced the state was implementing (starting tomorrow) a new dial... COVID Dial 2.0. The biggest change is that we are now measuring on a 7-day incident rate (rather than 14 day) and the amount of incidents required to move a community up and down the dial has increased (widened) considerable. In addition to the incident rate, the positivity rate and hospital capacity are still being considered. While our current 7-day incident rate would allow the County to go to yellow level restrictions on the new Dial, the decision was made to maintain Orange level restrictions until at least February 11. Eagle County will be in Orange and Garfield County is going to Yellow. At this point the only "restriction" we have in place in addition to the standard Orange level restrictions is the requirement for the traveler affidavit. Vaccines continue to be slow to come to Pitkin County. We are only expecting to receive about 100 vaccines this upcoming week. And while the rate of delivery is a problem, an equally big issue is that the pool of those eligible to receive the vaccine is broadening far faster than the vaccines are showing up. The County currently has about 1,500 people on the wait list that are over 70 years old or are School District employees. You can do the math, but if we continue to only receive 100 vaccines per week, it is going to be several months before these two critical categories of people are inoculated. Interestingly, both Garfield County and Eagle County have received enough vaccinations to complete the inoculation of their 70 plus populations already.

SAVING ENERGY DOES ADD VALUE

As a follow up to the discussion at the most recent Council meeting, the Town does permit the inclusion of the value of energy upgrades to be added to the value any deed-restricted housing. Essentially energy efficiency and water conservation upgrades can add to the value of the home up to 10% of the current resale price of the unit. Only improvements that clearly demonstrate energy efficiency and water conservation are considered.

SPEAKING OF VALUE

We received official notice from the Department of Local Affairs that our grant request for the installation of a fiber optic cable from Hwy 82 through Town was approved! The total cost of the fiber installation is expected to be approximately \$700,000. DOLA awarded the Town \$344,238

in grant funds to assist in constructing Broadband Access Network Partnership project. In addition to the DOLA grant, Holy Cross Energy is contributing approximately \$140,000 to the project. The Town will be responsible for the remaining amount. Once we have fiber installed to Hwy 82, we will then lease existing fiber to connect to the outside world. The total cost to the Town will be approximately \$250,000. Considering the value of this project, I am confident this is a wise investment into much needed infrastructure. The Council will be asked to make the formal appropriations in March (ish).

TID BITS

- Staff is developing proposed changes to the EOTC IGA to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of those meetings. As proposed, and with any luck, the members of the EOTC will be able to vote at the EOTC meeting on the issues before the group (rather than having to wait and formally vote at a later date). The next EOTC meeting is in March.
- We are working to get the new boiler for Carriage Way at the Top of the Village out to bid.
- The Recreation Center will be applying for 5 Star status to allow the continuation of operations through the pandemic.
- The 4 on 4 Hockey League started this week.
- We met with the representatives of Rodeo Board this week to continue review of the proposed Town Park Master Plan. I believe we have some consensus on a path forward. We are hoping to receive written comments from the Board in time for the February 16 Council meeting.
- Put on your seat belts, construction is coming. Haven's Cabin, Electric Pass Lodge and the Westin (soon to be Autograph) remodel are all expected to start work this Spring.
- The Mall Transit Station design kick off meeting was held this week. Design is underway as is the hunt for necessary grant funds for the project.
- Shocking news! Bus ridership is down. We are moving about 2,400 ish people a day rather than the usual 4,000 ish. COVID restrictions will do that to a mass transit system.
- Mountain View redesign is underway.
- Bad, but not shocking news, the annual DAV event has officially cancelled for this year.
- With the Westin remodel very likely to occur this summer, there are about 7,000+ group room nights we are working to keep in the Village somehow.
- The Colorado Tourism Office has moved their big Snowmass Conference from this summer to the summer of 2022
- If you have loved Luminescence, be sure to check out the new addition of Prizmatica. The new light and sound installation located throughout the Mall and Base Village is an add to Luminescence. The installation will be in place through February 28.
- With the success of Luminescence, we are looking for its summer equivalent. An art walk and other activations are being considered. We are not planning to have our traditional Fanny Hill Concert stage constructed this summer, but we are committing to have some form of safe, socially distanced live music on Thursday nights (in some other format) here in the Village.
- We are continuing to explore what COVID related expenses the Town incurred can be reimbursed with Federal and State programs.

CC: Department Directors