



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: September 10, 2021
Re: Info Update

SHOCKING NEWS- JULY WAS BUSY

July sales tax revenue hit an all time high. Sales tax was up 50% in July over last year and year to date it is up 8%. Considering how bad January and February numbers were, that is super good and unexpected news. At the same time, lodging tax was up 67% in July, but is still down 4% for the year compared to last year.

TAKE A FREE RIDE

As we all know, the no-fare bus service is not free. The EOTC has used its revenue to pay RFTA for its revenue “losses” for not collecting a fare. With the shift in the way the State collects sales tax, RFTA has seen a significant increase in their sales tax revenue from the EOTC while the EOTC’s use tax collection has dropped significantly. As a result of this shift (sales tax up and use tax down), the EOTC made a reasonable request to the RFTA Board to begin absorbing the cost of the no fare service, rather than having EOTC pay for it. RFTA’s own independent analysis shows that with the shift in collection method, RFTA could afford to pay for this service and still receive a windfall in sales tax collected. The RFTA Board will be voting on this request in the near future. As EOTC members, we should be encouraging their yes vote.

CC4CA SAVING THE WORLD

The Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA), which the Town joined last year, has updated their policy statement for the upcoming year. The amended policy statement must be adopted unanimously by each member jurisdiction. The following is a summary of the proposed changes:

- Added emphasis and more priority to policies that promote equity and inclusion, and reduce systemic inequities when transitioning and growing a clean economy.
- Clarification added to ensure alignment between state and local government greenhouse gas inventories to make them useful, accurate and practical in pursuit of reduction goals
- Added new goal to include greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste, wastewater, and agricultural processing / by-products.
- Language added to promote the resiliency of water resources, management, and conservation thereof.
- Updated the term “carbon emissions” to “greenhouse gas pollution”
- Added the inclusion of electric utilities in the pursuit of goals

Assuming the Town Council is supportive of these edits, Town staff intend to “sign-off” on the amended policy statement on behalf of the Town. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

FALL IS IN THE AIR

We aren't just a ski town..... **Travel + Leisure**, (who has 5,657, 701 unique monthly visitors) listed the Village as one of, "[The Best Small Towns in the U.S. to See Fall Foliage](#),"

BOARD AND COMMISSION "JOB" FAIR

As requested by the Town Council, we will be hosting an informational "Job Fair" for our Advisory Boards and Commissions on Wednesday, October 13th. Members of each board and/or their staff liaison will be available from 4 – 5:30 p.m. in Town Hall Council Chambers to answer questions and promote their respective boards. With any luck, we will generate interest among community members before we begin recruiting for vacant seats at the end of the year.

TID BITS

- We received 31 responses to our RFP for a new advertising firm. After a lot of help from Tourism Board members, we are down to 4 finalists. The firms will all interview later in September.
- The micro hydro electric turbine generator was delivered last week. Installation is still planned for this fall by the SWSD and their contractor.
- RFP's for our needs assessment and financial analysis for early childcare education are due on Tuesday, 9/14. We expect at least two proposals from firms that have expressed interest in the project.
- The first Mall Jam event on 9/2 was a success. We will continue with music on the Mall on Thursday nights through September.
- The Gondola is now only open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- We are making good progress on the Snowmelt Road boiler replacement project.
- We are making lists and checking them twice in order to take over the operations of the Snowmass Inn on Oct 1. We are also working with an architect to improve the rooms and make them into traditional studios with an improved kitchens.
- We are continuing to work with an architect and contractor on the Mountain View Exterior Remodel. We hope to go to permit right around the first of the year so that construction can start in the Spring.
- Winter is coming. We are looking to hiring between 5 and 9 full time bus drivers.
- We are continuing to evaluate transit grant opportunities and work to reduce the overall cost of the Mall Transit Station project.
- We have started recruiting for a new police officer. This new position is included in the proposed 2022 budget. While the creation of this position will still require formal Council approval, the length of time it takes to recruit and train an officer required that we start advertising now so that an individual could join the January start of the Police Academy.
- It seems like an eternity ago, but last week was JAS. Operationally, the concerts went off well, but there was a fair amount of abuse to the turf. After the weekend I read in the paper that they will be coming back, but other than what I read, I haven't heard anything.
- Pitkin County will be fixing a hump in the road on Owl Creek Road above the PW shop next week. Please expect some disruption in traffic.
- The recreation Center pool closure starts on Sunday 9/12. It should be fully open by 9/25
- Pitkin County Library has formally requested funds to study how best to expand Library services here in the Village, likely through a new branch.