



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: December 17, 2021
Re: Info Update

BRING ON THE GUESTS

We had a good warm up with guests in town this last week. Occupancy starts increasing big time this weekend and will be around 80% through New Year's Day. Unfortunately, as of now, the new Viewline (old Westin) has not received a certificate of occupancy, so there are not guest staying there or the Wildwood (as of now). There is a potential for a temporary certificate of occupancy, but only time will tell when those requirements will be met. For the Village and Aspen combined, overall winter occupancy is at 43.4%, 96% better than last year and 4% better than 2 years ago. January and April are the only two months performing worse than 2 years ago, the rest are all pacing up. These guests will get to see the start of Luminescence two point ohhh tonight and if they stick around long enough they will get to spend time with Santa and carolers and all sorts of cool stuff next week. In addition to our standard Santa photo opportunity, we will also be hosing sensory sensitive Santa photo shoot in cooperation with Challenge Aspen. And, if these guests are hungry after all of this, they can eat at Kenichi and Aurum now that they are open. Put on your seat belt..... here we go.

LITTLE RED

The Board of Little Red School House continues to work with Woody Creek Kids to take over the operations of the facility on January 3. There has been considerable back and forth discussion this week. At one point we were told everything was off and a new plan would need to be developed. Thankfully, that didn't happen and it appears as though everything has settled down and we should expect the transfer to happen largely as planned. We are doing our best to make all the parties as comfortable as possible and be the best partner we can be. I feel good that we have a solid path forward for this critical service in our community. Cross your fingers.

TID BITS

- Parachute wins. They have approved the contract and successfully stole Travis Elliott away to be their next town manager. They are on my naughty list. More importantly, congrats to Travis for becoming a full-blown bureaucrat! His last day with us is December 31.
- Work is continuing forward on the Daly Townhome retaining wall. Due to the angle of the wall, there are a couple spots where the shotcrete is not holding yet. GSI will need to do some patchwork on the wall. The soonest they could get concrete again is Jan 5. We will stay on it.
- We expect building 13 B, aka the second tower of Viceroy, to be submitted in January for review.

- The proposed Transit Center will start its land use review next month as well. Even bigger news than that, the federally required environmental assessment for the proposed Transit Center was approved this week. This was a years long effort to receive this critical approval. To say the least, it is a culmination of a ton of work and (I have been told) one of the primary reasons David Peckler no longer has long golden hair.
- We are continuing our short term rental analysis. As a side note to our analysis, we were informed this week that one neighbor of a STR on Lemond invoked the Snowmass HOA covenants to issue a cease and desist on the (rental) use of the property. The neighbor believes the STR is violating the covenants. It will be interesting to see where this goes with the Snowmass HOA and to find out how suitable the HOA covenants are to helping address short term rentals.
- In addition to STRs, we will also be cooperating with ACRA to undertake our bi-annual transient inventory study. This study helps us understand how many rooms, keys and pillow we actually have for rent in the Village and upper valley.
- Yes, we are wrapping trees, but instead of using paper we are using steel mesh. This way everyone but the beavers can continue to enjoy them.

ASE NOVEMBER RESULTS:

First the big news; the peak winter schedules started yesterday. Winter seat capacity into ASE has been fully restored to pre-pandemic levels. Keep your seat belt fastened.

The number for November were:

- Scheduled Flights: 179 flights scheduled in and out, down -25% from the 238 scheduled last November, and down -12% from the 208 flights scheduled in November 2019.
- Total Actual Flown Seats in & out: Down -23.5% from November; down -7.8% from November 2019.
- Total passengers flown: 22,179 arriving and departing pax, up +36.3% over last November; up +9.5% over November 2019.
- Overall November Load Factor: 91.8% this year versus 51.5% last year and 77.3% in November 2019 – by far the strongest monthly load factor ever recorded at ASE.
- Overall TSA throughput in November: Down -16.0% from 2019, which actually marks the strongest month for U.S. Air Travel since the onset of the pandemic.

SPEAKING OF NOVEMBER

Once again, both the Village and Aspen saw new occupancy records for the month of November. Pre-Thanksgiving occupancy appears to be the driver for those new records. November's occupancy of 29% is the highest ever. Aspen's new record was set at 33% while Snowmass's new high is almost 20%.

CC: Department Directors