



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

GOOD NEWS WITH COVID

No, that is not a typo. In the last 7 days, we have only had 13 new reported cases of COVID in Pitkin County and our positivity rate is below 5%. This incident rate of less than two cases a day puts Pitkin County into one of the top two safest/healthiest/ lowest case counts in the entire State. Yes, at a state-wide level, hospitals are running at about 94% capacity; but here at home, we have only had one case admitted to AVH in the last two weeks and no one in the ICU for COVID. There are several factors contributing to this good news including high vaccination rates and good compliance with the indoor mask order. So, as we enter into the busy season, we are in much a better place than we were a year ago. Businesses are open, snow is flying, tests and vaccines are available, and tourists are coming. HO, HO, HO.

SPEAKING OF NUMBERS

October sales tax revenues are up 14.5% over last year bringing the year-to-date number 13% ahead of 2020. Lodging tax is up 3.6% for the year and cigarettes and marijuana taxes are up a bit over 8%. Revenue from RETT dropped in October but remains well ahead of budget.

TID BITS

- The weather is here (finally) and ice is on our minds. The team is doing everything possible to get our rink open to the public. Be patient, its coming.
- The Daly Townhome retaining wall project is continuing forward. The soil nails are largely completed and the shotcrete goes in next week. The finish work will be completed next spring.
- We are still searching for the source of the smell in Brush Creek near Wood Road Bridge. With the testing our environmental consultant has undertaken, we remain confident that nothing dangerous is occurring, but we are still working to dot all our I's and cross any T's we don't know about.
- We are taking steps to get our new composting program up and going in the new year. Informational letters are going out and the public education campaign is beginning.
- Speaking of saving the earth, we expect to receive our carbon footprint analysis in the near future. We will see how close we got to our goal of a 20% reduction.
- We are interviewing for the Town Clerk position next week.
- We are continuing to work on compliance issues with individuals in our rental units. This is not easy or enjoyable work, but it is critically important to the integrity of the workforce housing program.

- We are developing a “white paper” to point out some of the best practices other municipalities use to regulate short term rentals. We plan to use this research to help guide the Council’s conversation and help define any new objectives we have as a community. In years past, our primary objective has been to ensure a level playing field by collecting all of the required taxes. Going forward, there may be other objectives the Council would like to consider. Of course, STRs remain an issue around the State. The Colorado Association of Ski Towns is continuing its policy analysis and considering a number of statewide policies it plans to advocate for.
- No promises but the new View Line Hotel could be open as soon as mid-December, we will have to wait and see.
- The Transit Center is starting the land use approval process.
- We plan to get initial pricing on the Town Park project next week.
- The rush is on. Starting this weekend we will be at about 80% occupancy and will stay there for the next couple of weeks.
- We issued the license for the Snowmass Dispensary today. With the license in hand, they plan to open for business later this month.

CC: Department Directors