



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: November 19, 2021
Re: Info Update

AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

Following Monday's update to the Town Council regarding coyote education and safety, a tried-and-true solution was brought to my attention. As everyone knows, the Road Runner is the coyote's natural enemy. We just need to reintroduce this bird so that the ecosystem can get back into balance. The rest of us might need to watch out for ACME dynamite and fake painted tunnels on cliff walls, but it just may work. Beep. Beep.

COVID UPDATE:

As of today, the 7-day cumulative COVID case count in Pitkin County is 35 (or about 5 new cases a day). In the last 2 weeks we have had one resident of Pitkin County hospitalized for COVID and thankfully none in the ICU. That said, more than 95% of the ICU beds around the state are occupied so there is not any room for error or growth in COVID cases. While it can certainly be dishertening to look at state-wide COVID numbers and hospital capacity, the optimist in me feels compelled to look at the bright side. This time last year we only had minimal testing (with 3-4 day waits), no vaccines and a fair amount of quarantining being required for simply being near someone that may have been contagious. Today we have 15 minute rapid tests available, a variety of vaccines and no unnecessary quarantines. While about 10 feet of snow (spread out evenly over the next 14 days) would really help, I do think we are in a much more solid position going into this winter season than we were last year at this time. Call me Pollyanna, but bring on Ski Season.

SPEAKING OF THE WINTER SEASON

According to Stay Aspen Snowmass, winter occupancy is shaping up well. For Aspen and the Village combined, we are 88% better than last year and 7% better than 2 yrs ago. Occupancy for December, February and March are all up double digits while January is down 11% strictly due to the lack on international business on the books. Overall, it sure looks like people want to keep coming to visit!

TID BITS

- We are going to begin wrapping trees around Town Park with steel mesh to keep the hungry beavers from decimating the landscape.
- We don't have any official word yet on when the new Viewline may reopen. We understand representatives from Marriot Corporate were in town this week inspecting the progress made on the project. All sorts of rumored start dates are flying around, but we will just have to wait and see.

- At this point we are planning to stop our electronic recycling program at the first of the year and start the composting program near the same time. Education and community updates will be forthcoming.
- The fiber optic cable contractors are continuing forward within Town. They broke a few massive drill bits this week, so that has slowed them down a bit.
- The Planning Commission started their review of the Deer Brook sketch plan this week.
- The Police Department is nearing the end of their comprehensive hiring process for our new officer.

CC: Department Directors