



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: January 7, 2022
Re: Info Update

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A question for consideration: does a year like 2021 make powder that much more awesome? Or were those powder days just that goood? Debate amongst yourselves.....

IS COVID THE OPPOSITE OF POWDER?

A high number of COVID cases is still running through the community. While the cumulative 7 day case count has decreased from a high of 664 on January 2 to 325 as of January 6, this is not a reason to let down our guard. We need to stay the course, continue to test when feeling ill, wear face masks, and stay home and isolate when symptoms occur. The hospital changed two of its benchmark measures to “Concerning” today. Although there has only been one Pitkin County resident hospitalized in the last two weeks, the hospital is seeing as much as 10% of their staff out each day with COVID symptoms. The decreased employee availability and the increased number of people seeking care is largely causing the “Concerning” designation. To be clear, the “Concerning” designation is NOT the agreed upon trigger to increase mitigations such as 50% capacity requirements. To move to increased mitigation, the hospital would need to cancel/suspend elective surgeries. It is my understanding that while elective surgeries may have their dates changed due to staffing levels, they are not being cancelled and the surgery program is not being suspended.

Like the hospital, TOSV Staff is also being affected with COVID. We had mechanics driving snowplow trucks and lots of people picking up extras shifts and work for their colleagues that were required to stay home. It was a ton of hard work, but due to an untold number of hard working dedicated individuals, we made it through the holidays. As we work through all of these COVID related issues in the coming weeks and months, I continue to believe we need to stay the course as an organization. We absolutely want to keep our staff and community as safe and healthy as possible. I believe the Board of Health and the Village continue to find this right balance. As of this time, I am not planning any additional changes to our COVID related protocols. If circumstances change, we will remain flexible, but for now I strongly believe we are well positioned to to have a safe and healthy New Year.

TID BITS:

- We continue to have a number of positions open at the Town (facilities, drivers, plow operators, parks/trails and in the Manager’s office), please send us your best and brightest.
- Welcome to new Police Officer Kara Hall and Shey Gieger in Finance.
- While I don’t always mention everyone’s departures from the Town, I do want to give a big shout out Kane Martens as he leaves TOSV (not the community) for new adventures. He will be missed.
- Shocking News! The Recreation Center, ice rink, and trails system are silly busy.
- Tourism continued to work on our new branding / logo initiative.

- The community is getting some cancellations due to COVID. Cross your fingers, so far it hasn't been too bad.
- Congrats to Shaun LeeKing on his promotion to Street Superintendent. Before his promotion, he and his team plowed something like 66 inches of snow between December 24 and January 2.
- We are tracking planned legislation that will be going through the state legislature regarding housing. We are expecting as much as \$400 + million may be available from the State to help deal with workforce housing issues.

CC: Department Directors