



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

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### SALES TAX REPORT

It looks like we are coming back to reality. After months of double digit increases in sales tax numbers, we “only” realized a 5.8% increase in August. Please don’t lose any sleep, we are still far above budget projects and our year-to-date increase is still about 45%. Lodging tax in August was down about 1%, but remained up 66% year to date. Also of note, marijuana and cigarette taxes were up 19% in August and are up 46% for the year.

### TID BITS

- The employee holiday party will be at Venga Venga on December 2.
- Ridership on the Village Shuttle in September was up 4%, year to date ridership is up 27 percent. Unfortunately, we still aren’t back to pre – covid ridership numbers.
- We met with RFTA staff regarding our request for the additional \$1.5 million for the Mall Transit Station. RAFTA staff is up to speed on the request and will be presenting the request to the RFTA Board at an upcoming meeting.
- As I quickly reported last week, we have a number of positions open right now. We have launched a new software that is designed to help us better advertise our positions and get high quality talent hired.
- Speaking of hiring, we are likely going to host another job fair at the beginning of the ski season.
- We interviewed a number of great design teams for the workforce housing project at the Draw Site this week. We plan to make a selection early next week and get the design work underway.
- Captain Obvious would like to let you know there is a lot of construction on Wood Road right now.
- Speaking of construction, we awarded SGM the contract for the design of the culvert/bridge structure repair/replacement project at the Brush/Owl Creek Intersection. Wetlands delineation began this week and design will continue through the winter. We plan to have a contractor hired in November that will help with pricing and determining the best construction methods.
- We expect to bid the widening of Highline Road by November. We expect this construction to start as soon as weather permits and be completed by June 1. Knowing that the Brush/Owl Creek structure project will result in a detour onto High Line Road, we know this multi model improvements must be in place prior to that detour.

- A change of tradition; please do not put your Halloween jack-o-lantern outside. While we humans find them spooky, the bears are finding the pumpkins to be delicious. Keep your pumpkin inside and save a bear.
- After reading the article below we contacted the County and expressed some dismay at this proposed change of course of funding assistance for early child education. We reminded them of our Little Red Schoolhouse analysis and let them know that help with capital, not necessarily operations, remains critical.  
[https://www.aspendailynews.com/news/pitkin-county-aims-to-give-aspen-area-child-care-teachers-a-financial-boost/article\\_d4d1cdb8-4459-11ed-9f09-7fe0018e11db.html](https://www.aspendailynews.com/news/pitkin-county-aims-to-give-aspen-area-child-care-teachers-a-financial-boost/article_d4d1cdb8-4459-11ed-9f09-7fe0018e11db.html)
- There is a community open house Thursday October 13 from 4:30 to 7:00 at the Pitkin County Administration Building to review the Truscott to Owl Creek Trail connection and the Buttermilk pedestrian crossing.
- There are a number of ballot proposals on the statewide ballot this November. The Board of the Colorado Association of Ski Towns has decided to remain neutral on Proposition 123 which would dedicate .1% of the existing state income tax to affordable housing programs. The Housing Task Force took a close look, met to discuss, and recommended the board take a neutral position. CAST will share the following statement as appropriate: *CAST supports new solutions and resources for affordable housing. Unfortunately, the Area Median Income (AMI) in Proposition 123 does not meet the needs of the rural resort demographic; therefore, CAST does not take a position regarding Proposition 123.*

CC: Department Directors