



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: February 20, 2019
Re: Info Update

ANOTHER EARLY EDITION

Another weekend and another swim meet on the front range equals another early edition of the Info Update. Plus, at the risk of bragging too much, the early edition last week brought good luck to the High School Team. They got second place at the State High School Championship Meet!! Go Skiers!

YOU SAVE THE WORLD; WE'LL PAY HALF

As the Council is well aware, the Town Council set a community goal to reduce our carbon footprint by 20% by the end of 2020. When we last analyzed our footprint, we had about a 17% reduction (about 85% toward reaching our goal) community wide. While there have been a number of local projects that have helped get us this far, the vast majority of the carbon footprint reduction is due to efforts by Holy Cross to “green their grid”. In order to get the community over the goal line and reach our 2020 goal, we have determined that we need more commercial accounts in the Village to switch their electricity use to a renewable source of power. If we can convince top commercial electric users in the Village to switch to a renewable source of power, we can easily achieve this goal. To this end, staff is continuing to develop a program whereby commercial Holy Cross accounts are incentivized to use renewable energy through Holy Cross’s renewable energy (P.u.R.E) program. There is an additional cost, or premium, to use renewable energy over fossil fuels. The Town began participating in PuRE in 2019. We are now working to develop this program to partner with commercial users and pay 50% of the renewable energy premium. This way, the commercial accounts that choose to participate would utilize 100% renewable sources, but only at half the premium cost to them. The commercial business would pay ½ the premium and TOSV would pay the other ½. As Holy Cross continues to green their grid, the required subsidy to go 100% renewable will continue to decrease. In the next year alone, Holy Cross is expected to increase their use of renewable power sources from 40% to 70%. This will reduce any required premium to get to 100% renewable. Several community stakeholders have expressed interest. A real perk of this program is that Holy Cross will use the proceeds from this “premium” (they call it a contribution) to offer rebates to people and companies that are installing energy reduction tools such as solar panels. So the proceeds from the renewable premiums aren’t just “green washing”, they are actually making a real time impact to reduce carbon emissions. Of course, the question of funding this proposed cost share program is a critical question. Our initial analysis shows that our funding from the Holy Cross Community Enhancement Fund and Renewable Energy Offset Program Fees will more than cover the anticipated expenses. We are still putting details together, but we are planning to have a program proposal to the Town Council at your March 2 meeting.

SKIERS ARE COMING

The January occupancy rate for Aspen & Snowmass Village combined was 75%; slightly down from last year. Aspen was virtually flat to last January's record occupancy. Snowmass beat Aspen ever so slightly but was down about 4% from last year's record performance. This January was Aspen's 2nd best and Snowmass's 3rd best on record. Although occupancy was down 4%, the average daily rate was up 7%.

TID BITS

- The Fanny Hill Townhome project was submitted late last week. We are currently reviewing the application for completion. Once the review is done, we will get the application out.
- We are continuing to review the revised Base Village PUD application. The hearing before the Planning Commission has not yet been scheduled.
- Patagonia's Repair Wagon will be in the Village (lot 6 to be exact) starting today through Saturday. From 10 am to 3 pm folks can bring one garment a day to have fixed for free.
- It's the 21 and 1/5st Century, so we are looking to update several of websites including our Village Shuttle and Tourism sites.
- If you, or someone you love is planning to take swim lessons at the Recreation Center this summer, we are have having a placement day on Sunday March 15. This "tryout" will help ensure everyone is placed in the correct level class from the beginning.
- We are working to create a revised garden design for the Town Park island adjacent to the "new" RFTA stop.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife is working to develop a new bear plan for the Upper Valley. We have done a good job managing bear people interactions, but some of our neighbors in the region have some room for improvement. This is a push from the state to get all the communities in the Upper Valley on the same page.

CC: Department Directors