



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: September 15, 2023
Re: Info Update

BABIES!

We had two outstanding additions to the Town Team this week. Our very own Riley Bonilla welcomed Riley Rochelle on Thursday AND Lauren and Jake Martenson welcomed Maggie Ray on Tuesday. Congrats to the new families.

SPEAKING OF AWESOME NEWS

There was snow on the Cirque this morning.

WE HAVE A CHAMPION IN OUR PRESENCE

A huge congratulation to our very own Gavin Aragon. Gavin won the backhoe competition at the American Public Works Snow and Ice Conference in Gunnison. Gavin is literally, the Best in the West!

REVENUES

July sales tax receipts were up 2.9% and are up 13% for the year thanks in large part to a strong January. Unfortunately, the Desimetrics report shows next January looking pretty weak. We will need to keep an eye on that. The Town's share of County sales tax is down by 1.6 percent. That is not because the County's sales tax collection is down, but rather because the Town's proportion of the County's overall collection is down. Fundamentally this means that Aspen's share of sales tax collections is growing faster than ours, so we get a smaller percentage of share back. The Town's Marijuana and tobacco tax is down 7% for the year, I'm not sure if that is good news or bad news. Our lodging tax was down about 3% in July but remained up about 17% for the year. All of this is a solid precursor for Budget Season, scheduled to start next week with the Finance Advisory Board and October 2 with the Town Council.

TID BITS:

- Quick quiz; what is our largest capital improvement project currently underway?..... I'll give you a hint, it has nothing to do with a hole in the ground..... If you guessed the Mountain View rehabilitation project you would be correct. That \$7.7 million dollar multi-year project is nearing completion. The majority of work should be completed before the snow flies with some landscape clean up still slated for next Spring. This critical infrastructure investment will not only help improve energy efficiency and consumption, it made some great strides in other critical structural improvements as well.

- We are making good progress on phase 1 of the Fiber optic installation project.
- We are moving trees, sheds and tons of dirt at Town Park.
- The Chapel Culvert is making good progress. We continue to coordinate with the accompanying water line replacement project; if all goes well, we should be paving everything by the end of October. The JAS Chapel vehicle detour is now closed and the trail is open to pedestrians and bikes.
- The Lower Kearns culvert project started its heavy construction this week. The configuration of two lanes of traffic on Brush Creek Road and Lower Kearns being open should remain this way until Thanksgiving time.
- With a couple of repair jobs for big holes in Brush Creek Road designed and construction underway, we are now restarting the design work for Donny White curve. With this restart, we are hoping to make this pedestrian improvement 8 feet wide, instead of the original idea of a 6 foot wide walkway. We'll see if we can make this work. Cross you fingers.
- September 20 will be the lottery for the gold and senior parking passes.
- Try to hold back your excitement when I tell you, ITS BUDGET TIME! The Finance Advisory Board will start its review on September 20.
- Event season ain't over yet. The Rotary Wine Festival is tomorrow and the Balloon Festival is next weekend

CC: Department Directors