



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: January 2, 2026
Re: Info Update

THE OLYMPICS ARE GOING THROUGH SNOWMASS

Being cursed with optimism has its benefits.....we do have one reason to celebrate the low snow year. Due to snow conditions and warm temperatures, Ski Co wasn't confident they could make both the Olympic qualifying half pipe AND the slope style course at Buttermilk for the Grand Prix event that will occur next week. They asked if we would be willing to help host the Slope Style event. We were very happy to oblige. So next week, the world's best skiers and snowboarders will gather at Buttermilk and Snowmass for the Toyota U.S. Grand Prix from January 7-10. In Snowmass Olympic hopefuls will compete in slopestyle, vying for points at the final qualifying event stateside before the 2026 Olympics. The weekend culminates with the official naming of the U.S. Olympic Ski and Snowboard Team. In order to make this event happen,(among many other efforts) we will need to close the lower half of lot 12 so that TV production equipment can be placed (the upper half will remain available). Lot 11 will be closed for athletes, coaches and other participants. We expect to receive some decent television coverage. All the events will be live on Outside TV. There is a broadcast on CNBC on Saturday (from Friday's competition) And NBC on Sunday (from Saturday's competition). With any luck, the snow will show up in time for the cameras to roll.

VACANT HOME TAX

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) and Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) are both asking the state legislature to pass authorizing legislation to tax vacant residential property (an empty homes tax). It appears as though Representative Elizabeth Velasco will carry a bill this upcoming session. The initial summary of the bill looks to provide authority to counties and municipalities to impose taxes on vacant residential properties to fund affordable housing initiatives, subject to local voter approval from the affected jurisdiction. If authorization is passed at the state level, then upon local voter approval, a tax can be assessed on vacant residential units within a county or municipality as a flat rate or based on the unit type, number of bedrooms, or square footage of the unit. A "Vacant residential unit" means a property designed for residency that is unoccupied for a specified amount of time, as determined by the county, or municipality, and not a short-term rental. Revenues from this tax may only be used for affordable, attainable, or workforce housing that meets a demonstrated need in the jurisdiction's most recent housing needs assessment, if applicable. The proposed bill (if passed at the State) will also allow counties and municipalities to impose an additional ad valorem tax on vacant residential properties, subject to (local) voter approval. It will be interesting to see how this progresses through the State Legislature.

TID BITS:

- Without the Two Creeks lift open, the 400 car parking spaces there are not being utilized. This has put a crunch on parking everywhere else in the Village and caused some crazy parking outcomes we have had to deal with. Let it snow!!
- We have some new faces around TOSV. While certainly not new to the Valley, welcome Rick Carroll as our new Communications Specialist. Welcome Jonathan Rivers as a new Police Officer. And also welcome a familiar face, our very own Gavin Aragon (of Public Works fame) to the PD. Jonathan and Gavin will be heading the Academy in January. Finally, welcome back to Jake Martenson, who is rejoining Parks, Recreation, and Trails Team.
- The County has provided TOSV free radon detections kits for use by residents. They are available at the Town Hall front desk.
- As we renew our 300 or so leases for workforce housing units, we continue to ensure all of the qualifications, including total hours worked, are being met. At the risk of being promoted to Captain Obvious, this continues to be challenging and difficult work. We are continuing to improve our Standard Operating Procedures for such hard to measure positions that are self-employed, etc.
- We received a pre- application for a project that encompasses the Timbermill Building, the Mountain Chalet and the “old” SRA property. We are currently reviewing the application to ensure appropriate owner permission has been given for all the properties involved.
- The New Year’s Eve fireworks were cancelled (in order to save snow for skiing), but the torch light parade happened, helping to bring in the new year.
- Ending on a high note, we are going to need to change our population sign and add a new resident. Our very own Emily Flood had a baby girl last week. Everyone is healthy.

CC: Department Directors