



Thank You Town Volunteers!

Mayor's Memo:

National First Responders Day is October 28th, please join me in thanking our first responders! October is also National Arts and Humanities Month. The Green Box Office at the end of Lake Street has information on the various art installations around Town and I encourage everyone to take some time to enjoy them.

So we are winding down from a very busy summer. We are in the process of winterizing the pool and Public Works is getting our roads ready to apply magnesium chloride. You may be seeing some additional work to "rake" the roads so the mag chloride penetrates the road base better. I'm not sure if you have noticed, but Foster is now much wider in spots and we are down to just one ditch. There is still more work to be done, but this is a great first start. We will also be winterizing the lake fountain, so you likely notice that as well.

The Town did receive some disappointing and very frustrating news. We had applied for a FEMA grant to do some engineering and culverts in our Town (a little over \$300,000 worth). Unfortunately, we were notified that we were not selected. They also did not give us any reasons for not being selected. The Town Manager and I put in a lot of time coordinating with the State on this application. We will continue to look for ways to fund this work as I believe doing our best to control the stormwater will eventually mean our roads hold up better. If you as a homeowner desire to put in your own culvert, please get with the Town first as that work will require a permit.

We have received the engineering cost estimate for replacing the bridge coming into Town on Ute Pass Ave. The total (engineering and construction) is over \$5 million for replacing it with a wider bridge that has a multi-modal traffic area (pedestrians and bicycles). This is a significant amount for a Town of our size and it can pose an issue if we need to pay contractors before we receive any funding. We are looking into ways to have that funding available.

At this time of year, the Town begins working on our annual budget. Municipal budgets are significantly different from private, business or corporate budgets as the vast majority of our revenue comes in as one form of tax or another. These tax revenues come in sporadically throughout the year. They are also heavily dependent on sales, so it is very difficult to predict what we will receive. In addition, the State has made modifications to the property assessments used for property tax calculations. We have not yet received those new calculations from the property tax measures that were passed in late August. Historically, we can usually just look at a 3% or 4% increase in the General Fund and be in the ballpark.

One of the things we have to be mindful of is whether or not we are consistently spending more money than we

are bringing in. If we are consistently doing this, then the BoT will have to review services and taxation and possibly make some very tough choices. One area that I may recommend to the BoT is to push to remodel the old Marshal's office. In that way, we could potentially lease it to a retailer and not only bring in lease revenue but add to the sales tax base as well. Another idea that I may propose is for a taxation change with our short-term rentals (STRs). Currently, our lodging tax is \$4.50 per room, per day. This is overly complicated and possibly results in inaccurate taxes. Obviously, most STRs are not rented out by the room, so I may propose changing this to a percentage of the total cost of the rental. This should simplify the STR taxation. I'm certain that changing this will require a vote from the voters in our Town.

On September 22nd, we had our end of season pool party and dog swim. It was a little on the chilly side, but the Chamber loaned us 2 fire pits that helped chase the chills away. We had a really good time and the dogs really enjoyed the water. I'd like to say a special thanks to all of our pool staff this year! We had really consistent hours of operations and the only closures were due to either weather or mechanical issues.

Community Event:

On Saturday October 5th from 9am until 11am we're having Creek Week cleanup and a Fall Community work day. Please meet at the Farmstand at the end of Lake Street and bring a water bottle, work gloves and appropriate attire. No preliminary sign-up is necessary.

Fire Safety Update:

The second set of chipper days were held on September 28th and 29th. It's my understanding that this second set of chipper days went well. I especially want to thank the Green Mountain Falls/Chipita Park Fire Protection District, the Fire Mitigation Committee and all the volunteers who assisted with this effort.

Please note that Thomas Trail may have closings during the week for fire mitigation.

Reminder:

Please cut down your dead/dying trees. Also, if you are doing any improvements to the outside of your house/property, please check with Town Hall to see if you need a permit. Stop Orders and fines are just no fun!

Calendar:

- Oct 1st - Board of Trustees
- Oct 8th - Planning Commission
- Oct 9th - Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee
- Oct 15th - Board of Trustees
- Oct 28th - Fire Mitigation Committee