Sometimes, even in the season of Thanksgiving, it’s difficult not to view life as a roller coaster carved by circumstance. Everything, from the daily news to our personal lives, is replete with examples of cyclical ups and downs. I like to focus my energy on the ups. Here’s one for you: According to my most trusted sources — the local newspapers, electric industry trade magazines, real estate valuations and the Mountain Parks Electric Engineering Department — the local economy is on the uptick. This, I can personally verify with numbers.

MPE installed 168 new meters through the end of September 2017, an increase of 17 from the previous year, and up 54 from 2015. It’s still less than three-quarters of the 698 MPE installed in 2007. But with the new local development throughout our service territory, MPE could, perhaps, again see prerecession numbers in the not-too-distant future. See the chart below for more detail on local development projects currently in the works. (John Morgan ACCT 1012377)

If these projects come to fruition, we’ll be busy at MPE. But busy is good, and we are up for the task. We are also grateful to work for you as a not-for-profit utility focused on providing the best possible service at an affordable price. I wish you and yours a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving!

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### AREA | DEVELOPMENT | DETAILS
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**Winter Park** | Sitzmark | 19,000-square-foot grocery store with 50 employees, opening December 2017; includes parking garage, retail space and 38 residential units.
| Arrow | 35 townhouses, 16 loft units above 14 retail spaces, pending town approval.
| Winter Park Ski Resort | Purchased by Aspen Skiing Co. and KSL. Future development TBD.

**Fraser** | Grand Park | Continued expansion in the Willows and Elk Creek subdivisions.
| Rendezvous | Filings 9 and 10 will add another 72 building sites.

**Grand Lake** | Bowling Alley | To be replaced with the Loft & Lanes, commercial space and condos.

**Granby** | Dollar General | New store is expected to open before year end.
| Sun Communities RV Park | The Granby town board approved the preliminary plans for the proposed luxury RV park: 538 RV sites, 341 park models, 228 vacation villas and 37 “glamping” sites.
| Granby Base Camp | 16 new units to be constructed.

**Walden** | SandRidge Energy | Ongoing oil and gas development.

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Owners: Dale & Joyce Wayman
(Email your dog photo to: tsifers@mpei.com)
Scott Linn: Things You Can Learn From a Nearsighted Optician

BY ROB TAYLOR || MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS

Like most full-time Grand County residents, Scott Linn hails from elsewhere — in his case Juneau, Wisconsin, population 2,800, smack-dab in the middle of Packer country. But as a child, he didn’t entertain Lambeau Field aspirations. Instead, he dreamt of becoming a soldier or maybe a scientist. By the age of 7, he looked more like the latter after being fitted for his first pair of eyeglasses. “Slightly nearsighted,” the optometrist announced when Linn completed the Snellen Eye Chart test. The fact that he could not distinguish between reds and greens couldn’t be helped, nor did it seem to matter much. After all, what 7 year old cares if a tomato is green or red? It’s still a tomato. And unless it’s in sauce form on a pizza or in ketchup, tomatoes are best avoided altogether.

A decade-plus later, it mattered to the U.S. Army. After Linn completed his physical, he was flagged for color blindness and his service options narrowed. “After basic training, we’re sending you to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado,” his recruiter told him. “There, you’ll be working on scopes and lasers.” And so he did, grinding lenses and crunching numbers using the base to apex thickness formula, but not for the military-grade weapons the soldier and scientist in him envisioned. Instead, he earned his optician’s credential in 1983. And with it, he helped the army see better, making eyeglasses with a team of enlisted opticians for all the military’s needs west of the Mississippi River. What he didn’t foresee was the resulting feeling that came from correcting vision deficiencies, the kind that only comes from doing something that matters.

In private practice now, 34 years and counting, Linn owns Winter Park Optical in the Safeway Plaza in Fraser. Inside the store, parallel illuminated walls adorned with rows of framed glasses subtly invite patrons to linger. But the perspective from the shop owner’s shoes is more profound. “I still get goose bumps when someone walks through the front door, slips on a pair of glasses and sees clearly again,” Linn admits in a baritone voice, “especially when it’s a little kid.”

Linn knows lots of kids.

For several years now, he has worked with the local Lions Club vision voucher program to provide exams and glasses for children and adults who can’t afford them. He also provides screenings for students from Fraser Valley Elementary School in Fraser, East Grand Middle School in Granby and West Grand Elementary School in Kremmling. You may also recognize him from the local 9News Health Fairs, where he provides similar services. Of course, there’s still a business to run. In Grand County, that means extending store hours during tourist seasons and providing discounts for locals — and doing his best to match Denver pricing. (Lynn Kessler ACCT 1025963)

Away from the store, there’s fishing. “My other passion,” he calls it. “I don’t even need to catch anything, really. I fish to get my calm back, and who doesn’t need that every now and then?” Age has brought the things that count in life into sharper focus. He serves on the boards of the Grand County Rural Health Network and Trout Unlimited, of which he says little more than, “It’s really just about giving back and thinking of others.”

Like November 11.

So what does a veteran like Linn think of Veterans Day? “A lot of people gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we share in this country,” he says, adjusting his eyeglass frames slightly. “It’s good to take a moment once or twice a year to reflect on that.”

Predictable answer? Admittedly so. And yet the sincerity and conviction of the words resonate when coming from the mouth of this small-town, maybe-not-so-nearsighted optician.
**Local Chef SPOTLIGHT**

**NAME:** “Woody” and Jodi Johnson

**RESTAURANT:** The Back Bowl Soup & Bistro  
*(in the Village at Winter Park Ski Resort)*  
Open seven days a week (8 a.m. - 7 p.m.)  
www.backbowlbistro.com

**CULINARY CHOPS:** They’ve been making delicious soups from scratch in Winter Park for nine years now, and loving soup for a lifetime.

**SPECIALTY:** Soup, sandwiches, adult beverages, breakfast and catering.

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**COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS:**
When making a pureed vegetable soup, throw in a potato to get a creamy, smooth consistency without adding dairy.

Check out The Back Bowl's sweet potato soup recipe: [www.mpei.com/ccl_bonus_features](http://www.mpei.com/ccl_bonus_features)

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**WAYS TO SAVE in November**

by Lindsay McCann  
Assistant Billing Supervisor

**THANKSGIVING COOKING TIPS**

- Don’t buy a turkey that’s bigger than you need. A smaller turkey takes less time and energy to cook.
- Don’t stuff. Baking the dressing outside of the turkey will reduce your cooking time.
- Choose side dishes that can go in the oven at the same time as the turkey. A timer will help you remember when to take them out.

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“The most important component of your ski gear when hitting the slopes is your boots. Without a proper fit, your performance, comfort and overall experience will suffer.”

*Eric Russell, owner of the Local Experience, located at the Viking Lodge in Winter Park*
A Thanksgiving Tribute From the Time Vault

On November 9, 1956, 61 years ago, local Edna Ruske penned this letter to MPE:

Dear Mountain Parks Electric,

There was a time when I cleaned and filled kerosene lamps each day; when I carried water from the stream up the steep little hillside to the house; when I heated water on a wood stove and washed over a board — and laboriously tended the heavy irons in the same manner; when I placed perishables in a little wire cage outside a north window and hung my meat in the garage — striving (vainly at times) to keep things from freezing too hard or from spoiling in the heat; when, in my craft work, I sewed and polished by hand; when I slept under a pile of heavy quilts and blankets, on those 50-degree-below nights, which left me as weary each morning as I had been when I went to bed.

For the brilliant light which comes at the touch of my finger, for the water which flows at my command (hot or cold), for all the wonder-working appliances which ease my day, for the soft, light blanket which keeps me toasty warm in any temperature — for these — and oh so many things, I THANK YOU! Not only at this time of year — but every day of every year, I say it gratefully and I remember "the good old days" when there was no electricity to lighten and brighten my world.

Q&A with FVMRD’s Scott Ledin

What’s new at Fraser Valley Metro Rec District?

With the help of dedicated staff, innovative partnerships and community involvement, FVMRD completed phase 1 of the historic playground at the Fraser Valley Sports Complex in the summer of 2016. This one-of-a-kind playground represents the history of Grand County through various pieces of play equipment, including a stagecoach and Old West buildings. Tipis and a canoe pay homage to the history of the Ute Indians in the Fraser Valley. Educational components include interpretive signage created by the Grand County Historical Association. The Colorado Lottery recognized this project with the prestigious Starburst Award. Additional recent achievements include:

- Updating the 2017 FVMRD Master Plan, effectively prioritizing immediate and long-range goals for the FVMRD for the next five to 10 years.
- Entering into a lease agreement with Winter Park Adventure Quest to construct and operate an aerial adventure park and climbing tower at the Fraser Valley Sports Complex. The new facility opened on June 30.
- Completing phases 1 and 2 of the Pole Creek Golf Club cart path paving project. This phased approach allowed us to concentrate on improving the guest experience on our course with minimal disruption to play. Seven of the 27 holes were completed through 2017. (Fred Koesel ACCT 1020020)

What are FVMRD’s future development plans? Read more of MPE’s interview with Scott Ledin at www.mpei.com/ccl_bonus_features.