

COMMUNITIES ARE PEOPLE

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER

Not long ago, an article in *The Atlantic* magazine posed the question “What Does ‘Community’ Mean?” As with many words in the English language, the article explained, the definition has evolved over time, expanding from its original meaning of one’s locale to include one’s identity. I did not fully appreciate the meaning of community until I became an employee of Mountain Parks Electric. For MPE community is a bedrock principle that shapes our utility.

Many of our employees invest their time and talents outside of work to build better communities. Here are some of their stories:

LINDSAY MCCANN, HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS

How can you increase tourism in your home town? Lindsay can tell you. Some years ago, she and a friend coordinated the first Hot Sulphur Days, a weekend fun-fest for locals and tourists alike. They sold t-shirts and refreshments, organized games and hosted a pie-baking contest. Lindsay’s husband barbecued and smoked meats for the

event. Attendance exceeded expectation. A summer tradition now, Hot Sulphur Days has grown with each passing year. The Hot Sulphur Springs Chamber of Commerce also expanded its community footprint in recent years by coordinating annual town clean-up days and community yard sales.

MATT REED, GRAND LAKE

For more than 19 years, Matt has spent his time away from work maintaining and preserving Grand County’s trail systems. It’s a passion, he says, and he knows that 70% of the county’s jobs are tied to outdoor recreation. Not surprisingly, he serves on three local boards that align with his interests; Grand Lake Trail Grooming, Headwaters Trails Alliance, and Three Lakes Water and & Sanitation District.

NATHAN PARKER, WALDEN

Nathan loves baseball and cares deeply about the next generation. As president of the North Park Little League (his wife Cassi is treasurer), he is in his element. The



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organization offers three different leagues for players ages 4 to 12. Nathan’s duties include scheduling practices and games, coordinating concessions with North Park 4-H and coaching kids. Teaching sportsmanship, he says, is every bit as important as teaching fielding and batting.

Molly Essmeier, ACCT 1013669

KYLE CHAVOUSTIE, GRANBY

In December 2019, Kyle began volunteering with the Grand Fire Protection District #1 out of a simple desire to serve others. Growing up in Granby, Kyle saw others giving their time to ensure everyone is safe. Kyle wanted to be part of that. His current work with the District provides training opportunities, helping with community events, assistance on emergency and non-emergency calls and EMS lift-assists.

Community support is something MPE has invested in for 75 years. Please take a minute to thank the volunteers in your neighborhood whose action make our communities work. Such compassion defines us all.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

— Coretta Scott King



MPE Staker Matt Reed, wife Ashley and daughter Emery near the South Supply Trail in Grand Lake.

The Dean Public House

Hot Sulphur Springs' Hidden Gem

BY ROB TAYLOR MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS

NOTE: Due to recent staff shortages, The Dean Public House in Hot Sulphur Springs is temporarily closed. You can, however, still dine at the Dean West in Kremmling, the first and only brewstillary and restaurant in Colorado, designed to make you feel like you're in a pub in your own home town. The Dean Public House in Hot Sulphur Springs plans to reopen when staff shortages are resolved.

If The Dean Public House's 148-year-old logs spilled their secrets, we might all be history buffs. It's here, in Hot Sulphur Springs, just two blocks off US Highway 40, that Theodore Roosevelt once lodged. Conservationist, teddy bear inspirer and war hero, the boisterous Roosevelt was ever quotable. "The unforgivable crime is soft hitting," he once said, speaking of conflict. "Do not hit at all if it can be avoided, but never hit softly." Exactly what he said at the Dean Public House, and whether or not he uttered his words with a clenched fist, only the logs can say. Before Roosevelt, frontier peace officer Wyatt Earp stepped foot in the Dean, which doubled as Grand County's first courthouse.

Today, locals and tourists with discerning palates gather at the



▲ A stagecoach arrives at The Dean Public House in 1890.

historic locale, now an award-winning restaurant, for mountain tapas and a taste of the unexpected. Depending on which day you dine (the restaurant features a rotating menu), you might order bacon-wrapped dates, wild boar tacos, elk sliders, green chili mac and cheese, The Huntsman (a house pizza) or Hot Sulphur Bombs (chicken, chorizo and jalapeños with spicy peach glaze). Then you would probably wash it down with handcrafted cider, ginger beer or even a BeeTini (beet juice, vodka, tequila, lemon juice, simple syrup).

Historic past

In 1873, Thomas J. Dean, a Civil War cavalry veteran from Michigan, built the house, originally a one-story, two-room log cabin. Four years later, Colorado's attorney general appointed Capt. Dean the first judge in Grand County. Dean held court on premises in the saloon, where, reportedly, he was fired on with a pistol by a Troublesome area denizen over an election dispute. The bullet just missed his ear. The encounter was, perhaps, an omen. On July 4, 1883, Dean died in the Grand Lake Massacre, the gunfight over



where the county seat should be located (Hot Sulphur Springs or Grand Lake).

Shortly thereafter, Walker McQueary and his mother bought the house and, after renovation, rented out 13 rooms. Part of the renovation is still visible today: a wooden wall constructed of leftover boards from Lulu City (a silver mining town near Grand Lake). You can see the wall while dining at the restaurant's community tables. The McQuearys also helped bring stagecoach service and regular mail delivery to Hot Sulphur Springs from Denver. Doc Holliday and President William Taft also lodged at the Dean, which evolved in purpose as the years unfolded:

- Alice Davis purchased it in 1913. Davis was known as an automobile enthusiast who served fried chicken on Saturday nights.
- In 1962, a Denver couple purchased the house and added five luxury rooms. They renamed it "The Stagecoach Shop."
- In the 1970s, it was a Mexican restaurant with a dance floor.
- In 1998, it became a bed and breakfast and included the Elvis Room and the Cowboy Room.

A haunted house?

Reportedly, on occasion, a woman from the Old West enters rooms and watches lodgers while they sleep. The current owners dubbed the apparition Elizabeth after Thomas Dean's wife, who died in the house in 1881.

Today's living visitors ...

... are foodies, locals who know where to find good eats and pleasantly-surprised tourists who happen along. According to current owners Tim and Connie Harvey, tourist traffic is mostly word-of-mouth and a result of online reviews, like these:

"Like the Wild West ... like you just got off a stagecoach."

"This place is spectacular! Every bit of everything we ate was phenomenal. I've been vacationing in Grand County for 25 years and this is the best place to eat in the county. No joke. Go here. Now."

One can only speculate over what Thomas and Elizabeth Dean's present-day reaction would be to what became of their cabin in the springs. One thing is almost certain: After sampling the tapas and handcrafted drinks, they would likely tour the building, filling in the blanks of untold stories now left to patrons' imaginations.



Head Chef Hannah Dooley

Local Chef SPOTLIGHT

RESTAURANT: **THE DEAN PUBLIC HOUSE & SALOON**
 412 W. Nevada St., Hot Sulphur Springs
 Check us out on Facebook

HOURS: Call 800-923-3690 for hours.

SPECIALTY: Tapas bar with unique, rotating menu. Handcrafted cocktails. Everything made in-house, and fun, public house style seating.

COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS

For a yummy homemade dipping sauce, use these ingredients: fat (oil or butter), salt, reduced white wine, onions or shallots and garlic.

Andrew Meadows, ACCT 1026995



Find Your Name Win \$5

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.

WAYS TO SAVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN
 CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

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For more information visit mpei.com/rebates.

PET OF THE MONTH



MITSY

Mitsy is a 7-month-old rescue pup. She loves her hikes, playing with her toys, paddle boarding and doing zoomies around the yard. And now she's learning to brush her teeth.

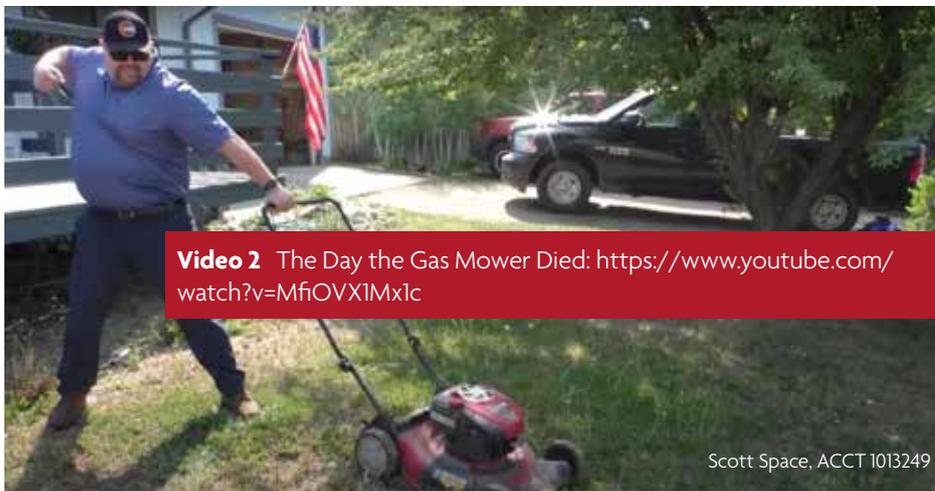
Owners: Joanne & Jac Donald
 Email your pet photos and pet bio to rtaylor@mpei.com

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To register, find the contest post on our Facebook page and comment, answering these two questions:

- 1 Which one of these videos is your favorite?
- 2 How many times was the word “electric” used in that video?

WINNERS to be announced on October 1.



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