



Town of Estes Park
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Town debuts “The Patcher” with pothole repair demonstration June 25 1A sales tax dollars at work repairing Town streets

The Town of Estes Park invites community members to attend a demonstration of the new Spray Patcher machine June 25 in the Riverside Parking Lot, north of Rockwell Street downtown. Community members can drop by the demonstration any time between 8 and 10 a.m. Staff will explain how the machine operates and answer questions starting at 8 and 9 a.m., alternating with pothole repair demonstrations starting at 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., weather permitting. Attendees may submit a street within Town limits in need of pothole repairs. At 10 a.m. three street names will be drawn and added to the list of top priorities for pothole repairs. A portion of the parking lot will be closed during the repair demonstration.

The Patcher is the Town’s latest investment of the voter-approved sales tax to improve Town streets and parking lots. Public Works Director Greg Muhonen noted, “The Patcher is a key investment in our overall streets maintenance program. By repairing potholes and other major damage, it extends the useful life of a street, slowing degradation before the street reaches the point of needing total reconstruction.”

The Patcher will supplement the Town’s street maintenance program, which prioritizes streets in need of maintenance, overlays and complete reconstruction. This year, the Town is undertaking a large reconstruction project on Dry Gulch Road (www.estes.org/publicworksprojects).

The Patcher will operate each weekday when roads are dry and temperatures are mild. The Town will focus on repairs on streets identified as high-priority, as well as take time to respond to citizen-reported issues. Town streets do not include CDOT-owned US Highways 34 and 36 or State Highway 7. This includes East Elkhorn Avenue and Moraine Avenue.

The Spray Patcher utilizes three critical ingredients for an effective pothole repair. The machine uses hot compressed air to clean and dry the pothole before it seals the bottom with emulsified asphalt. Then the pothole is filled with layers of the emulsion and clean aggregate (rock) before it’s capped with dry aggregate. When compared to cold patching or sending staff to the valley to purchase hot asphalt and fill potholes one truckload at a time, this process is expected to increase staff productivity by more than 500 percent, and it can be operated by just one employee. More information and a map of where the machine has been working is available at www.estes.org/potholepatching.

Contact the Town of Estes Park Public Works Department at 970-577-3587 for more information. Subscribe to receive Town news and/or meeting agendas in your email inbox by visiting www.estes.org. More Town news is available at www.estes.org/news, www.facebook.com/townofestesparkco and www.twitter.com/townofestespark.

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