



DATE: July 31, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

This week has been playing catch up after having been out for several days. Staff has continued to progress on the 2021 budget and will soon be bringing the discussion to Council. We expect to review the Strategic Plan and budget calendar with Council at the next meeting.

We continue to hear from each county regarding the COVID – 19 case counts. According to Eagle County’s [Performance Indicators](#), we remain at a higher risk level and are encouraged to stay home except for essential services. Part of the reason for the higher risk level is the fact that almost 60% of confirmed cases cannot be tracked to a specific instance of exposure. This is an indicator of community spread. On a slightly positive note, the number of cases has plateaued.

Now the work begins to reduce the number of cases once again. Eagle County has created a [mitigation plan](#) which aims to reduce the two week incidence rate (# cases per 100,000) to 100. Currently the cases per 100,000 are approximately 300. The expectation is to do this over the next 2 – 3 weeks. This would allow the risk level meter, found in the Performance Indicator chart, to move from “concerned” to “cautious.” This is an important indicator for schools, as an example, to be able to move to a modified in-person schedule.

In Pitkin County, the news was slightly more positive this week. The [Community Report](#) indicated a decreasing number of cases. That being said, there is still cause for keeping our commitment to the Five Commitments to Containment.

Police

We continue to receive calls and enforce/educate the public about COVID requirements. On calls of businesses violating the PHO, we will contact the County Public Health team and advise them of the violations.

Basalt PD Officers assisted Roaring Fork Fire Rescue with two wildfires in the last two days. Thankfully, they were quashed quickly.

We had another PD vehicle ‘vandalized’ overnight. Someone poured an unknown liquid over the top of it. This occurred in Willits.

Public Works

The Arbaney Pool waterline is underway. Gould brought in their equipment and has started digging. A preconstruction meeting was conducted on-site between Gould, the School District and the Town to iron out some details and make sure all involved are good to go. The Town will be putting up signs to keep the public informed of the access to the pool as the project progresses.

Public works is busy weed and tree trimming as part as our summer maintenance programs. The turf and gardens are looking good at this point in the season. We are repairing a gate at the tank access road next to the Cemetery because the fire fighters had to cut a support cable to fight the fire earlier in the week. Also, we are repairing some park chairs that have been damaged.

Budget season is upon us. Public Works includes several different services, such as strrets, parks and water. In the coming weeks we will be meeting with leads from each discrete service to review their anticipated needs for 2021. The Town is growing, and it is a challenge to anticipate the future needs of each service we provide both on an annual basis and into the future.

Planning

Green Team – Staff and CORE met via conference call with two representatives of SolSmart to discuss the benefits of the Town’s designation as a *SolSmart Community* and the associated process. Staff will bring this to Green Team at their meeting on Monday for further discussion.

CC4CA hosted the Western Leaders Network virtual meeting on the topic of guidance for local elected officials regarding rulemaking before the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and Air Quality Control Commission. The meeting was recorded and should be available for viewing in the future for those that are interested.

Pitkin County GMQS – This week’s meeting was the sixth of nine total meetings on topic of GMQS and proposed changes within Pitkin County’s Code. The meeting centered around a discussion on the appropriateness of house size as viewed through a climate action lens. Over the last decade the average house size in Pitkin County has increased from 3,342 square feet to 5,120 square feet. Lots not subject to floor area ratio requirements and that purchase TDR’s can build up to 15,000 square foot of floor area. Of the 11 caucuses in Pitkin County, a few, such as the Frying Pan Caucus, desire a smaller home allowance to maintain the character of the area. Most participants were interested in seeing a reduction in home sizes, and various tools were discussed such as FARs on all lots, while a few favored large homes on large lots over density on the same lot.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Financial Aid Committee convened this week to review and approve funding for the second trimester. The Coalition is currently well positioned to provide funding for all qualifying families through the end of the year.

Willits Town Center – Time was spent this week in finishing up the review of the TACAW Building Permit and getting it issued. Additionally, Staff worked on the site plan review and foundation permit application on Block 4 as well as providing a considerable amount of due diligence information to the attorneys associated with the Block 4 development. Staff is also working with the Block 4 Applicant in conjunction with the Town Attorney to ensure the appropriate legal documents such as the Subdivision Improvements Agreement and Indemnity Agreement get finalized in conjunction with the permitting.

BPAC – The selected artists have begun work painting the concrete barriers at the seven expanded restaurant seating locations. Town Staff continues to work with artists to manage the project as well as the Covid-19 Artist Relief Fund and Covid-19 Artist Collection programs.

2020 Census – Staff has arranged for a Census Bureau Response Assistance Team to attend Sunday Market on August 2, 2020.

Other Development Review/Applications – Staff spent considerable time on special event activity permits, interpretations, dealing with complaints and construction related items around Town. Staff is also working on the review of the St. Vincent’s Church expansion application that will be reviewed by the P&Z next Tuesday and that will likely be reviewed by the Council in late August/early September. Several new development applications were received for amendments to existing approvals in the Mables Subdivision on Homestead Drive/Tucker Lane and for 11 Duroux Lane. After going through the TRC review process, the new development applications will be reviewed by the P&Z.

Arbaney Pool Waterline - The Planning Staff in conjunction with Public Works Staff spent considerable time this week coordinating with SGM and Gould Construction to start the installation of a new waterline to the Arbaney pool. Construction of the new waterline is in full swing and should take a couple of weeks to complete.

Recreation

The Arbaney Park Pool is still going strong. We are currently allowing 6 lap swimmers and 2 aqua joggers or 7 families of 5 participants at any one reservation time. That is a maximum of 35 participants at any one time.

Camp Chip-A-Tooth has pool time on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays for a total of 5 hours a week. Water Aerobics is full at 12 participants on Monday and Wednesday mornings. We offered an impromptu Lifeguard recertification due to the ARC being down this past week. We also accommodated a few water polo participants from Aspen in our deep end for some practice time. The pool continues to be booked solid. We have a few leads on adult Lifeguards to help starting mid-August. We are looking at staying open with a full schedule thru Labor Day. We are working towards staying open thru Sept as an option.

Staff took a site visit of the new Art Dague Pool in Rifle on Tuesday. The facility was 40+ years old and they have scrapped most of the pool and created a great little facility with something for everyone.

Staff stopped in to visit Silt to view their skateboard park as well. Pictures were taken to help with the process in updating Basalt’s Gisella Fiou Skateboard Park. Staff has been working toward repairs and upgrades to our park and meeting with the local skateboard community for input.

Garry Pfaffmann’s kids camp has one more week left, starting August 3rd. Overall the camp was a success with over 40 participants each week.

Fall planning is more important than ever. With school out for at least an additional month, staff is challenged with trying to create recreational opportunities for our youth to socialize and exercise safely.

Below are the ideas and leads for fall offerings:

- Flag Football skills and drills- one coach has expressed interest in a skills camp offering
- Soccer- tracking down leads for a skills camp type offering
- Roaring Fork Cycling- bicycle camp offerings, sent email
- Basketball skills and drills camp- One strong lead is with Danny Martinez, looking into others
- Roaring Fork Conservancy- fly fishing - having conversations with Rick Lafaro
- Junior golf at the Roaring Fork Cub- having conversations with Greg Bryan
- Art Base- potential offering of arts and crafts TBD
- Lacrosse- Rick Stevens and staff are working towards fall programming