



DATE: October 23, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

We have our first dining tent up and permitted. El Korita contracted with Bethel Party Rental to install a heated tent on their patio. The Building Department and Fire Marshal inspected the tent to ensure that it met the required safety protocol. The [guidance document](#) and check list can be found on the [Building Department webpage](#).

The community business grant application process is now complete. We received over 30 applications and are reviewing those now. We will announce the results next week on October 26th.

The state has released its Halloween [Tips and Tricks guidance](#) to keep trick or treaters safe this year. Eagle County is also putting together [marketing materials](#) to be used in the community as reminders for families that intent to participate. Since we are trying to avoid having groups of people together, the Town is working with the school art teachers to create a Day of the Dead shrine in Lions Park.

Both [Eagle](#) and [Pitkin](#) counties are seeing significant increases in the COVID-19 infection rate. It is going to be important to keep following the 5 commitments to containment and to avoid the 3 C's so we can lower the rate before winter. If we do not see this go down, it may lead to additional restrictions on businesses, schools, recreation, etc..

The state has already begun to respond and based on an alarming uptick in cases, is updating its [health order](#). These include the following:

p. 4 Section II.A: clarified that counties are not limited to being moved only one level at a time in the dial, and that CDPHE reserves the right to move counties in the dial more quickly than the timeframes outlined as circumstances warrant.

p. 5, 6 and 8 Section II.B, C, and D: reduced the gathering size limit in Level 1 to no more than 10 people, clarified in all 3 levels that gatherings should not exceed more than 2 households, and clarified that the person caps in restaurants, houses of worship, and indoor/outdoor events exclude staff.

p 10 Section III.B: clarified that critical businesses and government functions should follow their sector guidance, unless doing so does not allow them to provide the critical need

p. 21 Section IV.C.15: clarified that elections operations includes activities at voter services and polling centers and other locations where elections activities occur, as well as including the act of voting by a voter



I will maintain 6 feet of distance from anyone not in my household



I will wash my hands often



I will cover my face in public



I will stay home when I am sick



I will seek testing immediately and self-report if I experience symptoms



Town staff, RFOV and volunteers with the Glenwood Canyon Restoration Alliance completed a seeding project in El Jebel this last Tuesday. This was a final step for the flood mitigation/restoration efforts that were completed in 2019. There were approximately 15 of us spreading seed (donated by the Roaring Fork Valley COOP) and straw as covering. El Korita donated burritos for lunch, which were well received.



Police

Officers Travis Newcomb and Bo Biggs were presented Live Saver commendations for their recent lifesaving actions. Officer Newcomb received the commendation for providing single person

cardiopulmonary resuscitation and administering two doses of Narcan, an opioid overdose reversal drug, to a female who had accidentally overdosed. Officer Biggs received the commendation for providing lifesaving first aid to a male who had severely injured himself. Mayor Bill Kane participated in the award ceremony and presented the officers life saver commendation bars.

On Wednesday morning a multi vehicle traffic accident closed both directions of Highway 82 near Emma. The highway was closed for several hours. Police Department and Public Works staff assisted with traffic control on Highway 82 and on Two Rivers Road, which was the alternative route.

Kindergarten through third grade students returned to the classroom this week. Our School Resource Officer was at the elementary school assisting staff. We are also providing an officer to assist students and parents across the intersection of Two Rivers Road and Cottonwood Drive during drop-off and pick-up times.

We conducted police officer interviews with three applicants. We hope to extend a conditional employment offer to a female who is currently attending the Law Enforcement Training Academy at Colorado Mountain College. If the employment offer is accepted, we will begin a background investigation of the applicant.

Public Works

Public Works continues to do interviews for the Forestry /Gardens position. We have a few applicants that we are doing some final vetting before we make an offer. It is impressive the quality of applicants that we are receiving.

Public Works did an exercise this week to simulate a power outage at various water wells. We have had two of our wells outfitted with the electric back up equipment in case of a main power grid outage. The backup equipment allows us to bring in a backup generator to be able to produce potable water in case the main grid goes down which almost happened in the Lake Christine Fire. We have had one well with a dedicated backup generator for a while but now we can run two more well pumps off a portable generator.

We were able to assist with traffic control the day of the wreck that shut down Highway 82. Basalt Police and Pitkin County were on the scene of the wreck and had to wait for backup. So public Works helped to fill in the need for traffic control at intersections until Basalt Police could replace us and take over the intersections. Public Work personnel are considered first responders and have training to help in these situations.

Planning

Basalt Leaf Drop – The yearly leaf drop is underway, with this weekend marking the second out of five weekly events. Details are on the Town’s webpage under “Basalt News”. The Leaf Drop will take place this weekend at the Willits Rugby Field, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

BACH – The Commission met this week with Habitat for Humanity to discuss ways to create partnerships for the development of workforce housing, successes in the valley, and Habitat’s parcels of interest. Staff also reached out to Roaring Fork Apartments to understand their tenant’s needs and interest in applying for the emergency rental assistance program. Staff expects to see some applications from tenants soon.

2020 Census – The public’s response period for the 2020 Census is now over. Staff has worked with the other jurisdictions and nonprofit groups up and down the valley for the past year-and-a-half in the Complete Count Committee to try to motivate every person in the Roaring Fork Valley to participate in the Census. While Basalt’s final estimated response rate was lower than the state average, it is believed that second-home owners are a major part of the reason it does not have something closer to the 99.9% estimated rate of the state overall. The coordinated effort between so many jurisdictions and groups in the Roaring Fork Valley was described by some members as “unprecedented” and a potential base from which to tackle other issues.

NWCCOG – The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) met on Thursday. NWCCOG discussed its 2021 budget, an upcoming study on childcare and new dynamics influenced by the pandemic, an upcoming study on changes to the use of second homes, and the Council heard presentations from the State’s opioid response leader and from a former police officer with regards to the recently-passed police use of force bill. NWCCOG’s member dues will stay at 2020 levels for 2021.

Arbaney Pool- The Planning Staff, Connect One Design, and SGM issued addendum No. 3 to address questions raised by contractors. The bids are due November 2, 2020.

Basalt River Park – The Town Attorney and CDC representatives attended the last Basalt Sanitation District meeting, and it appears that items of mutual interest have been resolved. The parties are now working to close in the next couple weeks. Planning Staff also had a third meeting with the Developer, Sopris Engineering, and Connect One Design to advance the work needed for Two Rivers Road and improvement of the Basalt River Park.

POST – POST has their next meeting on October 28, 2020. POST is scheduled to finalize their letter supporting the Glassier Management Plan. The Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and Public Works made some additional improvements to Parcel 10 by the river near the Willits Lane/Evans Road intersection. Citizens have been expressing their appreciation. See picture below taken by Carol Hawk, one of our POST members.



BPAC – Staff believes it has found a new home for the Motio pieces and will announce the new location once it is finalized.

Development Review/Applications – At the Council’s October 27th meeting, the Council is scheduled to review: the extension of vested rights for Stott’s Mill at second reading, the extension of vested rights for Basalt Mini-storage at first reading; and the code amendment requested by Habitat for Humanity at second reading. As reported earlier, Lot J in the Basalt Commercial Park is also in for review involving a PUD amendment, ESA review, and sketch site specific development plan review to construct a building consisting of twelve (12) residential units at the end of Emma Road near Basalt River Lofts. Staff is having pre-application discussions with the owners of the Jadwin Parcel.

The Planning Staff has been fielding numerous zoning and sign questions and dealing with construction management items.

Events – Two drive-in movies, sponsored by the Basalt Library, will take place this Friday 10/23 and next Friday 10/30. This Friday’s movie will take place at the High School, in conjunction with a student club. Next Friday’s will be at the Library.

Recreation

Recreation staff will be putting together a few new offerings in the next week:

- American Red Cross Babysitters training was a big hit in early October. We are planning an additional offering on November 7th at Town Hall. Due to limited supplies this will be offered for up to 6 participants and will run from 9 am until 4 pm on that Saturday.
- Dia de Los Muertos- a Day of the Dead Celebration will be created and set up in the Lions Park stage. This celebration is in a partnership with Basalt Elementary and their Art Program. Students will come and decorate the altar with art projects specific to the celebration. Staff will reach out to the community for additional participation. This celebration will run from Friday October 30th through Tuesday November 3rd.
- Staff will offer the community an American Red Cross CPR/ first aid course to either refresh skills not readily used or inform the participants on best practices. This would be offered mid-November.
- Staff will be assisting the Basalt PD in recertification for CPR/ AED/ First Aid through offering with the American Red Cross. Staff and the PD will coordinate for completion prior to the end of the year.

Finance

I am happy to report a positive outcome for the Town and for its citizens regarding the TABOR refund issued in 2019. The Town discovered an error in the calculation of the Town’s property tax mill levy that required the Town to refund taxpayers just over \$2,045,000. There were no additional expenses beyond what was originally reported to Council for the COP’s administration and accounting. Therefore, the remaining \$64,000 will be used to pay off a portion of the Certificates of Participation, or COPs. The Town issued COPs to pay for the issuance of refunds to taxpayers.

Since it has been over a year since the checks were issued, the remaining checks, totaling \$36,457, will be sent to the Great Colorado Payback program through the State of Colorado. The remaining unclaimed checks amount to 1.7% of the original balance. Town Staff and Dalby Wendland went to

great lengths to attempt to contact all property owners, and this effort paid off due to the low number of unclaimed checks.

An ad hoc employee retirement committee, comprised of employees from different departments of the Town, will provide their recommendation for the Town's employee retirement plan and advisor. Interviews were held on Wednesday for three firms who responded to the request for proposals. The Committee has done an excellent job of asking great questions and requesting the right data to make a solid recommendation. The Committee will be making their recommendation to the Finance Advisory Board next Wednesday which will be followed with a final approval by Council.