



DATE: January 29, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Eagle County's grant program is wrapping up and the businesses on the Roaring Fork Valley side of the County fared well. A total of 34 businesses received grants averaging \$15,000 each. A total of \$500,000 was awarded. Thank you to the Eagle County Commissioners and staff for their efforts to help our local businesses.

The Pitkin County [business grant program](#) is now accepting applications to distribute \$1.28 million for businesses impacted by COVID 19. Applications can be found on the [Aspen Community Foundation](#) website.

Staff is busy getting ready for a busy construction season and is excited to make progress on several capital projects. This summer we will be doing our regular streets maintenance but also looking to make improvements to the new Public Works site, the Basalt River Park and Arbaney Park pool.

The Town is partnering with Pitkin County, Holy Cross Energy and Snowmass Village to complete a fiber optic build in the downtown area. This is a project that benefits from Holy Cross Energy's fiber build that will be built from Glenwood Springs to Aspen. The project will benefit the Southside and downtown neighborhoods, including several businesses, schools, and currently underserved neighborhoods.

The Town Council approved two agreements this week to bolster mental health support in the Town of Basalt. The first was with the Aspen Hope Center which is headquartered in downtown Basalt to provide free counseling services to our community. In addition, the Hope Center will get added support for its 24-hour crisis line and crisis response. The second agreement was with the Roaring Fork School District and will provide money to support a full-time counselor in the elementary school. The funding source for these additional services was the Town's Tobacco Tax.

Police

The police department's Household Medication Take-Back Program collected another 40.38 pounds of unused prescription and over the counter medications. Our program, started in mid-2018, has now collected and safely disposed of 246.54 pounds of medications. The take-back collection box is located inside the police department. If you have medications to dispose of please bring them to the police department. Thank you to all community members who have assisted with the safe disposal of medications.

Corporal Nino Santiago received the July 2020 to December 2020 Standing 6 Award. Our Standing 6 Award is given twice a year to police department staff members who go above and beyond their normal duties during the previous six months. Award recipients are nominated by police department staff. Corporal Santiago was nominated for his outstanding supervisory and leadership efforts. A photograph

of the award presentation along with more information regarding this award can be found on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/BasaltPolice>. Congratulations Nino!

Mountain Family Health Centers conducted a drive through COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Middle School. Chief Greg Knott made several visits to the clinic to offer assistance. Mountain Family Health staff and volunteers did an outstanding job coordinating and safely executing the clinic. Overall, 101 people were given their first vaccination.

The police department has received complaints regarding the length of time motorists are waiting at the East Two Rivers Road / Highway 82 intersection. Chief Knott contacted the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) who advised they are aware of the issue. CDOT reported that traffic detection for Highway 82 traffic is not operating properly and the signal has been set to a timed cycle. This is causing Two Rivers Road motorists to wait at the signal even though no traffic is on Highway 82. CDOT is unable to fix this issue due to frozen underground conduits and wires. Once the ground thaws they will be able to run new wires and resume traffic detection for Highway 82.

Recreation

Staff have been granted permission to offer youth basketball from the RE-1 School District. This will obviously look very different than last year's youth basketball offering. Staff have received great interest in parent volunteer coaches and have begun building out a schedule under the CHSAA required guidelines. Staff will open registration for 3rd through 6th grades next week and practices will start February 17th. We all are excited to get back to play!

Although summer 2021 seems so far away, staff have begun the planning process for summer programming. Youth summer camps and Pool staff have been this week's focus for summer planning.

Public Works

Public Works met Wayne Shelton at Lot 4 to inspect and review the property. Wayne explained the layout and we toured the buildings. Public Works was impressed at the overall condition of the lot and the existing buildings. The staff was tasked with how we could improve the property and make it more conducive to our needs. We will be meeting later to discuss needs and ideas.

Public Works is completing its final review of the new Public Works Manual. A few minor revisions are being made ahead of the review by our town committees. The Manual also must be coordinated with the Municipal Code so time is being taken to double check that they have the same direction to the end user.

Public Works continues to break ice, move snow, and will soon start to put away the holiday decorations. We are also starting to think ahead to spring. We are putting together the Town's pruning plan for the urban forest. Newer healthy growth must be pruned and older hazard trees and limbs that have died have to be removed. A plan is put together every year to accomplish this. Limbs that hang too low in the street, cover signs, lights and that get hit by big trucks could damage the whole tree. So, a pruning plan is good for tree health.

Planning

Arbaney Pool- The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items with the Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design as the pool renovation project is underway. The plan is to complete construction by late May so that the pool may reopen for the summer.

BACH – Staff sent the 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Framework to the Property Managers of the local affordable housing programs as a follow-up to the Council’s support of the program at Tuesday’s Council meeting.

Basalt River Park Development – Staff has been working with the applicants on the entitlement documents that need to be recorded and to work through details on the next steps for construction.

Parks – Staff participated in a team meeting with the consultants to forward the improvements on the Basalt River Park. We are working on a worksession with the Council in February/early March. Staff is also working with the Town attorney on code amendments addressing park rules.

Green Team – Staff continues to work with Carbondale on creating joint messaging to reduce idling. Staff also drafted the letter for Council’s consideration regarding the State’s Transportation Funding budget. Staff attended the Planning & Budget Committee monthly meeting for CC4CA. There are potentially three new member communities set to join the coalition, and the finances are in good order for the upcoming year.

POST – The POST Committee met on Wednesday and made decisions on some of the details of colors and materials of the Arbaney Pool Project. These decisions were passed on to the contractors and project manager. POST also recommended a name for the Town-owned Parcel 10 in Willits that will be presented to Town Council and identified items they may want to talk with the Council about in their next meeting with the Town Council.

Public Art – Four ice sculptures will be installed around Town next week. Staff has worked closely with the Basalt Regional Library on this partnership, which will involve ice lantern making and a kid’s scavenger hunt. Information is up on the Library’s and the Town’s websites. The request for proposals for the mural project was sent out with a March 1st deadline.

Development Review/Applications - Stott’s Mill is still working with its bank to provide the required security. Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with our other construction projects throughout Town and addressing land use preapplication questions and development inquiries.