



DATE: June 29, 2018
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
Cc: Department Heads

Staff has been working hard to keep up with all the emerging summer issues – watering, trees, liquor licenses, streets, construction projects and projects review and planning.

Stage II Fire Restrictions have been implemented in Eagle and Pitkin Counties as well as throughout the White River National Forest. Things continue to dry out with high temperatures and winds. Information is being posted to the Town’s website, Facebook and Community Facebook pages as it becomes available.

Stage I Watering Restrictions are in place in Basalt with information being posted and updated to the Town’s website, Facebook Page and Basalt Community Facebook page.

The new Tobacco Tax takes effect on July 1, 2018. To date, 5 of the 8 retailers have been licensed. Staff will follow up next week with those who have yet to submit their applications.

A reminder that Town Hall Offices will be closed next Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Many organizations are preparing laser light shows in place of fireworks this year. Be safe, and enjoy the weekend and the day off!

Police

- The Pitkin County Public Safety Council met to discuss current wildfire conditions, preparedness, resource sharing, coordinated response and ongoing public education efforts. All Pitkin County law enforcement agencies, fire protection districts, state and federal wildfire suppression agencies were represented at the meeting. Stage 2 fire restrictions are in effect in Pitkin and Eagle Counties as well as the White River National Forest. With the lack of moisture in the weather forecast, the Pitkin County and Eagle County Sheriff's and area Fire Chiefs are evaluating fire conditions on a daily basis.

- With the 4th of July holiday next week, the Police Department wants to remind everyone that all forms of fireworks use is banned under Stage 2 fire restrictions as well as all outdoor burning. Fireworks sales are not prohibited but the use of any firework is against the law. There will be no fireworks displays in Basalt or surrounding areas this year. The Roaring Fork Club will have a private laser show on their property.
- Chief Knott attended the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police annual two day conference in Colorado Springs. Chief Knott was reappointed as the Northwest Region board member for the Chief's Association.
- The Victims Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board is scheduled to meet on July 12th to finalize recommended changes to the Town ordinance and approve by-laws, applications and informational flyers. The VALE Board has been working on these items for three months and will present to Town Council at an upcoming meeting.

Public Works

- The Emma Underpass that goes under Highway 82 was cleaned this week. The underpass is checked on regular bases and cleaned when needed. The lights in the underpass have to be serviced usually with just bulb replacement and occasionally some electric repair. Over the years Public Works has had to remove graffiti and shovel mud out of it during runoff and keep the culvert cleaned out.
- The East Valley Road traffic calming project has started. United Companies the contractor, which is also the company that built the underpass, started Friday removing the existing plastic traffic calming devices. Notice has been given and Public Works will continue to keep the public informed with what is going on as the project progresses.
- The Million Gallon tank restoration project is getting ready to start. Public Works is working with the contractor to establish a staging area. The staging area will be to the side of Fishermen's Park. This is the area that was used earlier in the year to stage for the Roaring Fork Clubs water main.
- We are continuing our mowing and tree trimming efforts in the right of ways next to the streets in Town. Any limbs or bushes that are to low, impeding sight or public movement have to be eliminated. Public Works tries to be sensitive to the property owners wishes but we have to keep the general public safe.

Planning Update – June 29, 2018

1. Real America Grand Opening was Monday June 25th at 1:00 pm.

The ribbon cutting was on Monday. Mayor Whitsitt spoke and helped cut the ribbon at the grand opening on Monday. Rhonda Shrewsbury Weybright was very complimentary about the support she received from the Council and Town Staff.



2. River Park Development LLC – Sketch Plan for CDC parcel - P&Z had a site visit on Tuesday June 19th where they visited the existing Chamber Caboose and ArtBase and viewed key site locations. The P&Z review resumes on July 17th which is currently programmed to take public comment and include a substantive P&Z discussion. The application can be downloaded from the Planning Department page on the Town's website under land use applications.

3. RFP's Related to Basalt River Park – A subcommittee of POST members and Town Staff interviewed 4 firms for the landscape architecture work on the Basalt River Park and recommended Connect One. We are scheduled to take this to the Council on July 10th meeting for approval.

4. Mid-Valley Area Community Plan – The Roaring Fork Regional Planning Commission (RFVRPC) approved the Mid-Valley Area Community Plan on Thursday June 28th following receiving more public comment mostly from neighbors of the Fields Residential project. As reported in the newspaper, the motion to reduce the density on the Fields Project and the future land use map failed by a vote of 4 to 3. The Planning Commission did revise the density on the Moderate Density Residential (MDR) Category to 1-7 du/acre instead of 5 to 7. (This is in line with Basalt P&Z and Staff recommendations). They added supporting senior care facilities everywhere in the text child care was mentioned, modified the language regarding discouraging big box and mid-box retail to discouraging oversized retail. The Commission reviewed their language regarding where the higher densities within the residential classification could be considered; and Staff feels this language could be helpful both to the RFVRPC and Town when the RFVRPC is reviewing specific development proposals. Procedurally, the Plan has been adopted and the moratorium is over. Each of the Commissioners has an opportunity to read the final edited version. Then they certify the MVACP through a resolution expected to be completed at or before the next RFVRPC meeting.

5. Child Care - The Basalt Child Care Coalition met on Wednesday, June 20th. They talked about what they heard at the Council meeting and the next steps for a child development center on Parcel 2E. The Committee also talked about Eagle County's evaluation of potential ballot questions. Other topics included use of the Eagle County and Basalt budgeted funds. Pitkin Commissioner Patti Clapper attended the meeting and indicated she wanted to continue attending the meetings.

6. Verizon Cell Tower- The pole arrived and is installed. The tree branches will be added. Verizon representatives indicated that they are hoping to have it fully operational by mid-July.



7. River Center – The Roaring Fork Conservancy River Center was given a temporary certificate of occupancy and are starting to move in. Remember the Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday August 11th.



8. **Old Pond Park Improvements** – Here is the picture from last week and this Friday which shows the progress being made.

2 weeks ago



This week



9. **Car Charging Stations** – Sara Nadolny sent in a grant to Charge Ahead Colorado for a mid-speed car charging station to be added to the existing slower speed stations by the Well House on Midland Spur. To make the grant more “green” and more competitive, we added solar panels to the roof of the well house building as part of the proposal.

10. **Miscellaneous-** The Planning Staff is also working on a lot of miscellaneous items: enforcements on multiple zoning/code violations, review and inspection of completed construction work for release of financial security on some projects, and responding to considerable “planner of the day” inquiries and pre-application conferences.