



DATE: May 8, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

It appears that the new Resolution requiring face coverings to be worn in indoor public places and outdoors where social distancing cannot be achieved, is working. I have heard reports from the grocery stores that they are getting good compliance. The police department has received several calls regarding social distancing, some more legitimate than others. They continue to educate the public on our mask order and other requirements under the public health orders. We know that chasing down every instance of the face covering requirement is not practical but with education, especially for our businesses, we will continue to improve on compliance.

Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Doug Jones (D-Ala.), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), and Gary Peters (D-Mich.) announced a plan to provide local governments with direct federal relief that can be used to pay for essential services and offset lost revenues and increased costs from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic response efforts. This local assistance would complement direct relief to states, which is also vital in this crisis.

Kris Mattera, Basalt Chamber Executive Director, and I have been working on organizing a plan around our Council listening tour. The regional efforts of creating an economic recovery plan are coming into better focus but continue to be a dynamic process

We have heard a lot from our restaurant owners this week regarding the public health orders and their appeal to work toward reopening with sensible guidelines. Pitkin County is working on a plan to come up with a date for reopening and Eagle County has so far maintained their position to allow a reopening with the transition to their next phase, which could occur as early as April 25th. Eagle County has scheduled Facebook Forum (which will be aired on the County's One Valley Voice Facebook page) next Thursday, May 14th, from 1 – 2:30 pm. This will be an opportunity to hear from our businesses, including restaurants, and to get updated on the current public health order.

Pitkin County is updating their public health order, which should be effective on Saturday, May 9th. The order essentially follows the Safer at Home order from the state. Additionally, here are a few new resources which include the [Roadmap to Recovery](#) and [FAQ](#) for businesses and individuals.

Checks have been issued for community support which included \$10,000 for the Food Bank of the Rockies which will support the food distribution efforts at the middle school every Thursday. The second \$10,000, provided to the Aspen Community Foundation COVID-19 Relief Fund was distributed to five different non-profits at \$2,000 apiece. These include the following:

- Family Resource Center of the Roaring Fork School District – helping students and their families
- Valley Settlement – helping immigrant families
- Mountain Family Health Center, Basalt Clinic – helping low income clients
- Focused Kids – helping immigrant families
- A Little Help – helping seniors

Public Works

Public Works along with a hired contractor replaced a water main valve this week. The valve was on Homestead Drive and was on one of the older sections of water main in the Town. The valve had become inoperable and valves are very important to isolate sections of the water mains for repairs to the water system in Town. The valve structure was welded directly onto the steel piping which is an indicator of its age since that has not been a common practice for some time.

Holy Cross Entergy is proceeding with their electrical undergrounding project on West Sopris Dr. They have excavated a large rectangle hole where they will bury a vault. The vault will serve as a junction box to connect the underground power lines.

Public Works is working with We-Cycle bike share and Roaring Fork Rural Fire District to relocate a bike rack onto the fire departments property. The area needs minor excavation and some material to make the spot safer for users.

Annual crack sealing of the streets will continue into next week. The process seals the cracks in the streets to prevent freeze-thaw damage. The spray injection process, molten tar and gravel into damaged areas, is finished for the year.

Police

The police department continues to educate residents and businesses on the public health orders in Eagle and Pitkin Counties. The Pitkin County order revisions will become effective on May 8th and we will assist community members and businesses with the changes.

The Thursday afternoon food distribution site served 275 families. Over 8000 pounds of food was distributed and no families were turned away due to lack of food. The food distribution site will continue for the foreseeable future. Food Bank of the Rockies will continue their Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., food donation site at the middle school.

With the arrival of spring weather, officers have been performing bicycle patrols. They are focusing on riding our trails and visiting parks to educate users on social distancing requirements and the use of leashes for dogs.

Chief Greg Knott has revised departmental directives that were previously implemented to protect officers and community members from the COVID-19 virus. Officers will now:

- * Resume proactive traffic enforcement
- * Resume enforcement of the Town's 72-hour parking restrictions
- * Provide in-person assistance at civil stand-by's
- * Provide in-person assistance with child custody exchanges

- * Provide in-person assistance with landlord-tenant disputes
- * Resume in-service mandatory training for staff
- * Our Administrative Assistant will now work in the office on Monday, Wednesday's and Fridays.

Planning

Willits Town Center – Considerable time this week was spent working on construction related items, such as parking by construction workers, building permit reviews for TACAW and Block 11 North and Steadman Clinic.

Other Development Review/Applications – Work continues on other development applications, such as St. Vincent Church's planned expansion and a car-wash application in Southside.

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – BPAC met on Thursday to prepare for the upcoming Town Council meeting and to discuss the Basalt Artist Relief Fund. They received other updates on art related issues in Basalt.

Basalt Affordable Community Housing (BACH) – BACH discussed available sources of financial rental assistance available, as well as non-financial assistance offered to tenants by landlords and property management companies. BACH will provide Town Council with a brief presentation on the findings at Council's May 12th meeting.

Early Childhood Coalition (ECC) – The Financial Committee met today to discuss how to handle tuition assistance funding. Area programs are tentatively set to reopen by June 1st with requirements, including reduced classroom sizes. Generally, the financial aid application is available to everyone on May 1st, but given the reduced need for assistance during this time period, the yearly application will be made available on July 1st for August 1st program funding. Families currently receiving tuition assistance can continue receiving assistance through August, as programs reopen, with a verification letter from their employer. If recipients' work situations have changed, the Financial Committee will re-examine and adjust their aid appropriately.

Citizen Committees: Staff is starting to schedule times on the Council agenda for the Council to talk with the various citizen Committees. BPAC and BACH have items on the Council's May 12 agenda. Staff has scheduled the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Committee to come before the Council on June 9 to talk about its 2020 work plan and status on Arbaney Park, and again on June 23 to receive direction from the Council on the first phase of the Arbaney Pool project. The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) is also anxious to meet with the Council. Currently we have the P&Z scheduled for a discussion with the Council on June 23.