



DATE: May 29, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

We have been busy this week talking to restaurant owners about their expanded dining areas. We have requests from a few to use sidewalk areas or parking areas and we are working through those details with them. We will place concrete “pigs” for those using parking areas to help protect patrons seated in those areas. The “pigs” will be placed on Friday (May 29th) but seating in those areas may not be immediately used as the permitting needs to be completed. We expect that the permitting process will be quick so those expanded areas should be in use over the coming days.



We have opened the public restrooms and playgrounds as of this morning (Friday). We have placed signs around to ask people to use caution and take personal responsibility regarding washing hands or using sanitizer after use of these facilities. We are also investigating hand washing stations and hand sanitizer stations in key locations to help facilitate compliance with this request.

Staff is working on the Basalt Bucks program and have made progress since our Tuesday evening meeting. We anticipate the roll out of this program to be on or around the middle of June. We anticipate the mailer and “Bucks” to go out soon.

I received word this week that the School District will support our request for temporary parking in front of the Elementary School. We are working with RFOV and Basalt Gives to provide assistance with trail enhancements along Swinging Bridge Trail.

Police

The Police Department assisted the weekly food distribution site. This week, there was a decrease in numbers of families served. 280 families received 7000 pounds of food. The distribution site is planned to continue through the month of June if need exists.

We continue to assist our Planning Department and Town Hall to implement safe reopening of businesses and restaurants throughout Town. We also continued our educational efforts with residents regarding the changing public health orders.

Officer Bo Biggs attended a Taser instructor recertification training. Training for our officers is beginning to start up again. Each training will require social distancing and mask wearing by participants if social distancing cannot be maintained.

Police Department officers will be assisting at the Saturday high school graduation ceremony and graduate parade through Town. On Monday, we will be assisting at the 8th grade graduation run from the middle school to the high school. Congratulations to all the graduates!!!

Public Works

We are now in the chip seal stage of the street maintenance process. The Chip Seal process includes applying liquid tar, which is sprayed on the surface of the street being treated and then adding a layer of small gravel to the tar. The roadway will need a few days to setup and adhere and then the street is swept before another layer of tar is added to seal the gravel and increase the resilience of the surface to wear and tear from traffic.

The Town’s sweeper has been out cleaning this week. Public Works tries to sweep all the streets on a rotation schedule. The schedule is varied due to the projects that Public Works is having to accomplish at any given time. Also, if we have a construction site that tracks into the street or if there is an accident that needs to be cleaned, we use the sweeper for those jobs.

The Rifle correctional facility Swift Crew, in coordination with the Roaring Fork Fire District, completed wildfire mitigation for the Town this week. The Swift Crew trimmed trees around and above the Town’s main water source and filter plant. The source water is the Basalt Springs located behind the plant on Basalt Mountain. The Springs are in the fire zone and the filter plant is located adjacent to the fire zone. The Springs had some minor damage from the Lake Christine Fire, but the plant sustained no damage. In an ongoing effort to proactively protect our critical infrastructure we are certainly grateful to the Swift Crew and Fire District for their partnership.

Due to the utilization of Triangle Park, Public Works has added trash receptacles, picnic tables and staff on the weekends to help keep the Park free of trash. The takeout containers from the restaurants have been filling the trash cans daily.

Planning

Willits Town Center – Considerable time this week was spent working on construction related items, such as street cut permits.

Other Development Review/Applications – Work continues on other development applications, such as the automated car-wash application in Southside which goes before the P&Z next Tuesday. Staff also conducted pre-application discussions on potential developments. The Stott's Mill approval documents are in the document signing stage.

Basalt Sunday Market – Staff is continuing to work with Eagle County on a plan for the 2020 Basalt Sunday Market including messaging, creating vendor zones, and other logistics.

NWCCOG – Staff and Bill Infante attended the virtual NWCCOG meeting on Thursday. NWCCOG continues to offer most of their programs and services, with Covid-19-related changes. NWCCOG has been awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for rural business development and is applying for another grant for Covid-19 recovery.

POST – The POST Committee met on Wednesday and primarily discussed the Arbaney Park pool project, in preparation for discussions on June 9th and June 23rd with Town Council on the proposed pool improvements and the phasing plan for construction. A video is being finalized to share the proposed improvements digitally with the public and Council.

OTHER – Staff worked on the High School car parade, 8th grade graduation run and other requests for special events. Staff is also working with TACAW and the Chamber on the summer events to replace the ones that were previously planned. Staff worked with Public Works and administration to work through the details and logistics of the expanded seating areas and liquor license areas for restaurants who must curtail their indoor seating area by 50% and arrange for social distancing.

Recreation

The Basalt Arbaney Park Pool will open on Wednesday June 3rd. We will be offering lap swim and family swim time slots through a reservation system to ensure occupancy compliance with the Blue Phase of the Eagle County public health order. Lap swim will be at reserved at 1-hour increments with a max of 6 participants. Family swim reservations will be at 2-hour increments with a maximum of 5 families at a time. Lap swim reservation is for an individual while each family reservation will have a 5-person limit. This process is very new and we are expecting to work out the issues as they arise. The pool staff will be meeting on Monday for training and learning about updated protocols for cleaning and social distancing.

Kids summer camps will be starting on June 8th with Garry Pfaffmann. Garry and Basalt Recreation have been working to ensure a safe and fun experience for this great summer offering of week-long, themed day camps based out of Arbaney Park. June 8th kicks off with a themed week of Science and Cycles. These offerings are for kids ages 6-11. The first week we will be offering 30 participant spots and will be an opportunity to observe how our setup works with regard to social distancing. We hope to be able to open more spots in the weeks thereafter.

Basalt Recreation is excited to hire Abby Hanson to the team. Abby comes with a ton of collegiate swim team coaching experience and other life experiences. This will serve us well with our young adult pool

staff. Abby will be assisting in all aspect of Recreation. We look forward to her contributions this summer season!