



DATE: August 28, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

First and foremost, I want to thank our Basalt Police Department and our partner agencies who came out to help with yesterday's incident near Evans Court in Willits. The Police Department handled it with great precision and were able to successfully deescalate the situation. The support from our regional partners was of great benefit not only on scene but working behind the scenes as well. Special thanks to the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office, Aspen Police Department, Snowmass Police Department, Eagle County Sheriff's Office, US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Glenwood Springs Police Department, Vail and Pitkin County Communication Centers, Roaring Fork Fire Department and members of the Eagle County Special Operations Unit.

As a reminder to our community, it is imperative that you have both Eagle County and Pitkin County Alerts activated on your phone. This was messaged heavily during the Lake Christine Fire but yesterday was a good reminder of that as well. The Pitkin County Communication Center is the main communication center for the Roaring Fork Valley. Please encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to sign up for both. The links to sign up are as follows: <https://pitkincounty.com/List.aspx> and <https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832141/login>.

The Grizzly Creek Fire continues to burn but is now reaching containment of 68%. The Type 1 Incident Management Team, Alaska Team is in place and providing regular updates. The most recent can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/GrizzlyCreekFireCO/photos/pb.120827539551559.-2207520000../134394334861546/?type=3&theater>. Stay up to date on the [Grizzly Fire Facebook](#) page and [InciWeb](#) pages as well. Luckily the air quality has been better this week but check [PurpleAir](#) as a good resource for up to date air quality details.

The COVID-19 outlook is good in both Eagle and Pitkin Counties. The [Risk Meter](#) is now notching down within the "comfortable" stage for Eagle County. A total of 32 cases have been reported in the last two weeks which equates to an incidence rate of 57 cases per 100,000. In Pitkin County, there have been a total of eight cases over the last two weeks (three live outside of the County). The [Coronameter](#) is still in the Cautious stage for Pitkin County.

Testing has improved regarding turnaround time from specimen collection to lab result with an average of 3 days in both Eagle and Pitkin Counties.

The [Five Commitments to Containment](#) are still being reinforced as our best way to keep cases under control. The focus for the counties now is to get kids back to school and they are both working on messaging around that. With the upcoming Labor Day Holiday, they are both doubling efforts to provide information to residents and visitors about how to stay safe and discouraging behavior that could result in infection rates. In addition to school, the counties are focusing on the winter and what to expect from the state regarding rules around skiing. They are in contact with state and federal officials to provide clarity (sooner rather than later) regarding rule making and direction so we can begin planning for opening.

Police

The Police Department applied for and received a \$3,022 grant from the Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training Board. This grant will partially reimburse training expenses for our regional training program.

All officers are in the process of recertifying in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Staff participates in a two-hour online training then demonstrates practical skills for a test out. Roaring Fork Fire Rescue graciously provides a certified instructor for the test out portion.

Public Works

Public Works is in the process of filling and treating the Million Gallon Tank to put it back online. The tank contractor finished the warranty work and staff is now in the process of disinfecting and testing the water as it is being filled. Our target level of water averages twenty-seven feet and it takes three days to get to that level. It will be a relief to get the tank filled and back in service.

The new water line at the pool has been pressure and bacteriologically tested and it passed with flying colors. The next phase will be hooking the pool mechanical room into the new water supply. The new line will be great and supply plenty of water to clean and fill the pool. Also, the bathroom fixtures will have ample supply. The pool was originally supplied with the same size line that services the average house.

The Girl Scout Globe on the west end of Town Hall was reinstalled this week. The wooden support for the globe had rotted over the years and needed to be replaced. Public Works staff found a replacement pole and put it back on display.



construct three residential units on the industrial property that contains Helpers Restoration in the Basalt Industrial Park.

BACH- BACH will be meeting next Thursday, September 3rd to work on formulating a framework to evaluate applications for rental assistance funds. It is anticipated that BACH will come back before the Council to discuss the framework they have come up with in September.

Recreation

Basalt Arbaney Park Pool is still filling the reservation system. It is fairly obviously that school has started and the participation at the pool has slowed. Staff has not received any certified lifeguard applications at this time. We still have two ads running in both newspapers, the Aspen Times and Post Independent. We are willing to offer additional hours if the staffing situation changes. When thinking of a modified schedule for this summer, we wanted to reflect on last year’s schedule. Although the pandemic has created many obstacles for us, our schedule this season has offered more hours than the previous season. It is always challenging to close a facility for the season. Staffing of a seasonal operation with part-time seasonal employees continues to be the main hurdle. Attached below is a picture of the modified pool hours from last season. Our current modified availability is 8 hours Tuesday through Friday and 9 hours on Saturday and Sunday. We will not be offering a doggie splash day this season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug
11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p
Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim
1-5p						1-5p
Open Swim						Open Swim
5-6p						5-6p
Lap Swim						Lap Swim
25-Aug	26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug
11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p	11-1p
Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim	Lap swim
1-5p						1-5p
Open Swim						Open Swim
5-6p						5-6p
Lap Swim						Lap Swim
1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep
11-1p	11-1p					10-1p
Lap swim	Lap swim	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Doggy
1-5p	1-5p					Splash
Open Swim	Open Swim					
5-6p	5-6p					
Lap Swim	Lap Swim					

Youth Soccer (kinder-3rd grades) started this past week with 17 total participants. This offering runs for another week at Arbaney Park. Our soccer instructor, Maurine Fitzpatrick, will go on to instruct Tee ball once soccer concludes.

Angling Adventures with the Roaring Fork Conservancy started as well with 10 participants receiving instruction in all things fly fishing. This offering is twice a week for 5 weeks.

[Summit54](#) has teamed up with the Basalt Elementary School for after school instruction. 15 participants ranging from kinder to 4th grades will meet with a teacher and teachers aid three afternoons per week to ensure understanding of curriculum. These offerings are scheduled at the Arboney Park gazebo starting next week and run through October.

Staff has been chasing leads regarding dance offerings, girls Middle School Golf club, availability of college-aged lifeguards and instructors, flag football, and youth baseball. We will continue to follow up with these leads in hopes of offering more options this Fall.

Finance

We are working on revenue estimates for 2021 using internal data and looking at how other municipal governments are planning with the current economy. This is a tough year for revenue estimations, given all the economic variables and unknowns. However, we are getting close to a good starting point for 2021 revenue assumptions, and we will look forward to discussing these estimates with Council.

The departments are finishing up their first expense requests for 2021 budget, and we will be starting those conversations later next week. Our initial budgeting goals are to maintain a balanced budget for expenses that occur each year, to fund the Town's strategic work plan, and to assure we are maintaining capital infrastructure needs for essential service departments. To create an understanding of the facility needs/condition, we are preparing a draft RFP (Request for Proposal). As a part of this budget process, we will be discussing the option of compiling a Facilities Needs/Condition Assessment and the importance of that plan in creating a prioritized strategy for maintaining the Town's buildings. A water fund infrastructure review may be a separate component of that proposal.

Boyd and I are also reviewing the possibility of updating the Town's water meters with a new system for 2021. The new system would improve accuracy of water reading for the Town and its residents, would detect leaks sooner, would streamline the process for water meter reading so that we could upload the meter reads centrally, and would save the cost of having to replace old and outdated meters over the next few years. We are in the process of compiling information so we can request bids on this project from meter companies operating in the valley.

It is also the time of year to review/assess Town employee benefits. Given the economic uncertainties in front of us, it may be challenging to provide an increase at the beginning of the year for employees (although we have not come to a decision about what salaries will look like next year yet). No matter which direction the Town finances go for 2021, we can create a great employee benefits process, including good customer service and employee education, to give Town employees additional opportunities to maximize their Town benefits. To that end, we are looking into American Fidelity as another option available for supplemental insurance plans. American Fidelity sits down with all employees to discuss all options for their Section 125 cafeteria plans, including health, flexible spending accounts, health savings accounts, medical insurance, and supplemental insurance options. We have sent out an employee survey to determine which direction employees would like to head regarding the Town's supplemental insurance provider for 2021.

We have also sent out an RFP for a retirement plan financial advisor for the Town. Those results will be received and reviewed in the next few months, at which point we will be coming to Council with a recommendation for a retirement plan financial advisor. At that point, we will be reviewing options of which retirement plan administrator/recordkeeper to partner with for the actual retirement plan options for employees. If all goes in accordance with plan, then we could have a new retirement plan fully implemented by March 31, 2021.