



**DATE:** September 27, 2019  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

I am happy to report that the Cedar/Pinon project will be nearly completed today. The paving crew was here yesterday and finished all of the paving. The main crew will be putting finishing touches on today. This will include placing road base around the edges of the new pavement as well as placing riprap below the swale to protect the spillway from erosion. The last piece will be the installation of a trash rack on the culvert that runs under that intersection.





I am now trying to nail down the start date of the next phase. This will include the last major project in the hill district, which is the work to be done at Pinon and Frying Pan Road. We are prioritizing this project because it will require asphalt (the paving season is coming to a close) and is an important part of the Cedar/Pinon project. This last piece will direct any debris flows to back to the Frying Pan River.

Finally, we will use a separate crew to work on the private properties in that area which will include some minor grading, berming and placement of concrete barriers.

A small concrete project was completed yesterday on the approach from the 7-11 to the crosswalk at Two Rivers Road and Cottonwood Avenue. This area always held water which became a sheet of ice in the colder months. We added drainage improvement as well. This should help improve safety in this heavily traveled pedestrian area.



The sidewalk project along Two Rivers Road is also progressing well. The retaining wall is being installed which will ultimately help form a solid foundation for the sidewalk.



Valerie MacDonald, Pitkin County Emergency Manager, has scheduled a training for elected officials on **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3pm**. This two hour training will follow a new format and will be a great way to learn more about the elected officials' role in emergency management. The training will also aim to inform elected officials on what we have done here locally with improved communication, our Incident Management Team (IMT) and our Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Please consider joining as this will be a very important and informative session.

Christy has sequestered herself over the last several days to continue refining our 2020 budget. We have met with all department heads and have discussed their requests in depth. We are planning to have a very strong draft to the Council at our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The deadline to deliver a first draft, according to the Town's Charter, is October 15.

We also continue our work on the TABOR refund. We are still on track to mail out checks in October. We are getting several questions about the refunds from tax payers, especially regarding who the checks will be made out to. Christy has done an incredible job getting us prepared for this phase of the refund. Thanks Christy!

## Planning

**Special Events** – Here are the upcoming special events.

- **Friday September 27** – Street Dance by TACAW from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.
- **Friday, September 27** – Basalt Homecoming Parade and Football game 1 pm.
- **Friday, September 27** – Basalt Climate Change Rally, a march on the sidewalks from Basalt Middle School to the Lions Park stage from 3:30 to 5:15.
- **Sunday, September 29** – Basalt Sunday Market on Midland Spur 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is the final market for the season.
- **Saturday, October 5** Pumpkin Jazz starting with a family friendly event at the Basalt Regional Library at 3:30 pm and simultaneous events throughout east and west Basalt starting at 5:00 pm

**Basalt Master Plan** – The P&Z is discussing the Master Plan at each of its meetings. CTA and Connect One Design participated in a Worksession with the P&Z on Tuesday and talked about the results from the citizen participation effort, goals and objectives and next steps on key parcels. We are working toward an Open House on Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup>. The survey on the Pitkin County – Basalt Junction closes on Monday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Once formatting is completed, the appendix including the complete set of Comments will be uploaded to the letsTALK.basalt.net site.

**Arboney Park Swimming Pool Project** – Connect One Design continues to seek input on the pool project and is working on the mechanical and engineering aspects of the project. SGM has been working on the new water line portion of the project. Basalt area individuals who wish to comment may do so by accessing the link <https://letstalk.basalt.net/arboney-pool-outreach/>.

**Basalt River Park** – The Worksession was held Wednesday, September 25. Connect One Design presented the two options to the Town Council, POST and P&Z at the Worksession: “Basalt’s Front Porch” and “Eddy Out”. While the majority picked the Eddy Out concept there was also good support for Basalt’ Front Porch”. The Consultants are working on taking elements of the Front Porch into the Eddy Plan. The

majority of the board participants liked the kiln shape with a climbing wall as the historical element being brought into the River Park, there was support from several participants for moving the Chamber caboose over.

**Basalt Green Team** – The Green Team talked with the Council on Tuesday to discuss projects and budget for 2020, and the amendments to the Sustainable Building Regulations. CORE presented findings from the Basalt 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory report. The Green Team will discuss the feedback they received at their next meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Pitkin County Open Space and Trails** – Sara attended this meeting on Thursday to discuss the historically designated buildings that are found along Highway 82 between Old Town and Willits, commonly known as the Emma Store. This was the third of a series of meetings to determine the best use of the buildings and identify champions and potential funding sources. The group ultimately decided to focus on identifying the parameters for use of the buildings, including limitations set by access to the site, CDOT's allowed vehicle trips per hour, trail use, and other site constraints as well as the intention to reflect the area's historical context. OST is creating a list of parameters to discuss at next month's meeting.

**Basalt Affordable Community Housing** – BACH met on Thursday and welcomed guests David Myler and Bill Lamont who led discussion on the Regional Housing effort, including next steps. Currently the Regional Housing Task Force is contemplating focusing efforts on creating an advisory coalition, and the potential of hiring a staff person or consultant to provide the administrative functions for the Regional Housing effort. The group is interested in continuing work with the communities into 2020. Bill and David indicated that the coalition would hopefully include Aspen, Snowmass Village, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Pitkin County, Eagle County, and Garfield County with the potential for other Colorado River Valley communities to join in the future. The Task Force has asked for each community to set aside \$20,000 in 2020 for this effort to hire a staff person or consultant. BACH supported Basalt being part of the coalition, but felt that the amount of the Town's contribution toward the coalition in 2020 should be up to the Town Council in considering the overall Town budget.

**State Transportation Plan** – Susan attended the IMTPR meeting in Eagle last Friday. CDOT presented the results of the statewide input they have received as part of the update of their long-range transportation plan. This is what they heard in the 197 comments the State received specifically about the SH 82 corridor from Glenwood Springs to Aspen:

- Concerns for safety due to wildlife management
- Concerns about weather and natural incidents
- Desire for better pedestrian facilities
- Desire for better bicycle facilities
- Desire for transit improvements
- Frustration with congestion
- Pavement condition is poor

On November 1<sup>st</sup> the IMRPR will begin identifying projects.

**Willits Park Management Efforts** – Planning Department Staff and Chief Knott attended a Willits Merchants Meeting on Wednesday to discuss parking and methods of encouraging employees in Willits Town Center to park in the parking garage under Whole Foods to open up more of the on-street parking in Willits Town Center during the day. The merchants in attendance expressed support for an incentive program to get employees to park in the parking garage. The Planning Staff and Police Department will be working on specifics of such a program and will present the concept to Council once it is more refined.

**Other Planning Items** – The State Planning Conference was held in Snowmass last week. James led a tour to RMI, the River Center and Willits Town Center. Patrick Rawley organized the tour which also included riding WE-cycle from East Basalt to Willits. James also conducted a site visit with members of the Chamber Sign Committee and Aaron Humphrey of AlpenGlow Lighting Design to work on improving the lighting for the Southside and Basalt Roundabout signs.

## **Police Department**

The police department successfully migrated all cellular phones and wireless data devices to the FirstNet system. This project has taken two months to implement and will increase the communication abilities of police officers in the field.

It was a busy week for special events. The police and public works departments provided traffic control for the annual Basalt High School Homecoming Parade. Officers will also be working the homecoming football game on Friday night and the dance on Saturday. TACAW is hosting a street dance on Market Street, Friday night, and our officers will be there to assist. The police department also assisted with the Climate Change Rally that took place on Friday afternoon.

We have started performing public education about the recent leash law changes and designated off-leash areas. Officers are speaking with and educating dog owners and walkers about the changes. We are also providing free leashes if one is needed.

## **Public Works**

Public Works had a tank mixer installed this week on one of our million gallon storage tanks. The purpose for the mixer is to achieve better quality water by keeping the water moving and “turned over” in the tanks. Without the mixer in place, the water can stratify which results in different water temperatures and chlorine levels. The mixer eliminates the potential for stratification and maintains the consistency we aim to deliver to our customers. The mixer is about the size of a football and runs on solar power.

The installation of the mixer is done when the tank is full so it requires a diver to complete the work. In addition to installing the mixer, the diver inspected the reconditioning that was completed last year. There are a few areas that he identified that will need warranty work completed.