



**DATE:** October 25, 2019  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

This week I attended the National ICMA Conference in Nashville. It was well attended by other Colorado managers which provided an opportunity to network and catch up on local and regional issues. Additionally, there were a number of useful sessions to attend. These included sessions on innovation, strategic planning, disaster preparedness, crisis management and leadership. I was glad to learn that we are either discussing or actively working on many of the most relevant topics.

The Emergency Watershed Protection work has now moved into the neighborhood along Sopris Drive. There are still a few odds and ends to complete with the work on the Frying Pan Road project but it is largely complete. We should be able to move out of the neighborhood completely in another week or so. One remaining item is the trash racks that fit over the culverts to help with clogging. Those are being fabricated now and will be installed by the contractor when completed. The following photos show some of the work being done and a rudimentary attempt to demonstrate the purpose.





We had our weekly check-in call yesterday and were able to speak with the BLM regarding our permits for the last project, which are debris basins above the trailer park in El Jebel. The permits are issued and ready to go. The design for this project has been preliminarily submitted to NRCS for approval. We are also working on storm water permits with the State. I expect that we will be able to begin that project late next week or the following.

The sidewalk project along Two Rivers is progressing and the curb and gutter is nearly complete. You can really see this project taking shape which will be a great asset for our local trail system and improve safety for its users.





## Planning

**Basalt Master Plan** – The Public Open House is scheduled for Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Basalt High School. The P&Z continues its work on the Master Plan. See the [letsTALK.basalt.net](http://letsTALK.basalt.net) site for more information.

**Arbaney Park Swimming Pool Project** – The Consultants are evaluating citizen comments they received and are working toward a December 10<sup>th</sup> update with the Town Council.

**Basalt River Park** – Connect One Design is working toward a November 12<sup>th</sup> check in with the Council on the revisions to the plan based on the input that was received. The Consultants have taken elements of Basalt's Front Porch Plan and incorporated them into the Eddy Out Plan. POST provided feedback and Connect One Design is now working on the November 12<sup>th</sup> Worksession with the Council.

**Basalt River Park Development** – Staff is working with the Developer, Basalt River Park LLC, on items required for the Final Plan Application. Staff is also working with the Developer on the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) which amends the floodplain designations for the area covered by the former Pan and Fork Mobile Home Park. Those costs are being shared among the CDC, Developer and Town. Staff is also coordinating with the consultants working for the State on revised floodplain mapping for Eagle County. The new floodplain mapping will most likely not be effective until 2021 or 2022.

**Basalt Green Team** – The Green Team held its monthly Green Team meeting. A discussion was held about inviting interested students to meetings, and how to engage their energy and enthusiasm toward projects and community education initiatives. The Team also expressed desire to proceed with the installation of a cold climate air source heat pump at the Basalt Town Hall and discussed ways to engage the school district on energy assessments and upgrades.

**Annual Leaf Drop** – The dates have been scheduled for the 2019 Annual Leaf Drop event. Last week the leaf drop was held at Arbaney Park. The Town is partnering with EverGreen Zero Waste who will Staff each event. Collected leaves will be taken to Rock Bottom Ranch for composting, and branches and brush will be composted at the Pitkin County landfill. Event times will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at each of the remaining dates/locations listed below.

- Week 2 - October 26 & 27 at Willits Rugby Field
- Week 3 – November 2 & 3 at Arbaney Park
- Week 4 – November 9 & 10 at Willits Rugby Field
- Week 5 – November 16 & 17 at Southside Park

**Basalt Early Childhood Coalition** – The Coalition had its monthly meeting last week. They discussed putting together a roadmap to explain funding sources and help educate others on gaps. The group also discussed ways to keep moving forward on Parcel 2E and will solicit quotes for soil sampling to understand the underlying geotechnical work that will need to be considered with any development that is ultimately built on the site. Eagle County provided an update that the mini grants program will continue into 2020, which is available to program directors who may use the funds at their discretion. Eagle County also noted a planned increase in the Salary Supplement from \$500 to \$1,000 to assist with employee retention. The Coalition is interested in pursuing a needs assessment for the upper Roaring Fork Valley in 2020.

**Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC)** – Applications for public art grants from BPAC are open until November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Elected Official Transportation Commission (EOTC)** – The main focus of the EOTC meeting was on the Community Forum Task Force on Transportation and Mobility and relatedly the 2020 proposed budget. A discussion was held on the topic of the X-Games transit subsidy, with Aspen Mayor Torre questioning the possibility of transit sponsorship rather than EOTC funding. The X-Games was recently approved to remain at Buttermilk for the next five years. The EOTC also reported on outcomes from the recent Strategic Planning Retreat, identifying strengths, opportunities and challenges. Lastly, the Town of Snowmass Village reported on plans to upgrade the mall transit station, and shared graphics depicting several options for improvements.

**2020 Census** – Watkins attended the Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee (CCC) meeting last week. The CCC will learn within the next two weeks if it is to be awarded its grant request from DOLA that will fund marketing and organization activities. The group discussed potential figureheads for the identified hard-to-count populations. Watkins is also working on finalizing GIS data to submit to the Census Bureau for its New Construction Program.

## **Police Department**

Officer Curt Donaldson resigned his position with the police department. He will begin working for the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office starting November 1st. With him leaving the police department has three vacant police officer positions. We have begun advertising for applicants and will hopefully be conducting interviews in mid-November.

School Resource Officer Thomas Wright and other officers conducted lockdown drills at all three public schools. Previously this semester we have conducted full scale fire evacuation drills at all three schools. These drills are done each semester as outlined in our school emergency operations plan.

The police department launched a new computer based accident reporting program. In the past, officers had to hand write mandatory State of Colorado traffic accident reports. They also had to hand draw accident scenes. With this new computer program all reporting will be completed on the computer. The program also has a robust diagraming feature to draw traffic accident scenes. The use of this new program will speed up the process of completing accident reports.

Lieutenant Aaron Munch and Officer Matt Lilly have begun the audit process of our evidence and found property room. All property and evidence in our possession will be accounted for during this audit.

## **Finance**

The TABOR refund checks were mailed out Thursday and Friday of last week. The system for determining and completing the refunds has worked well! Many businesses and residents have called with questions, and the information has been accurate and has answered everyone's questions. We did receive a few dozen postcard mailers back that were mailed to the addresses in the database, and have fixed the addresses for the undeliverable mail received to date.

We have been reviewing our workers compensation package for next year, and will be switching our workers compensation agent to Network Insurance Services, LLC, effective towards the end of October 2019. Our current agent is Neil Garing Insurance. Network Insurance Services will assist us with cost containment, claims mitigation, and will help us track our claims, assuring claims that are inactive are closed by Pinnacol in a timely fashion. All of these services help to reduce our claims costs while giving better information to any employee that may be involved in an accident or injury.

I also met with Alpine Bank this week to discuss fraud control for our operating account. We've added Positive Pay service to our account, which requires us to authorize all outgoing ACH's. Additionally, we have taken off the online wire feature, which is where a lot of fraud with bank accounts is occurring. We're also discussing making our online credit card system more robust and easier to use for the community. Stay tuned on that, since we have some details that still need to be worked out.

It is currently open enrollment for health insurance benefits. The health insurance will remain with CEBT, and will include a \$12,500 benefit for all full-time employees. The additional \$500 this year was

possible due to a health insurance credit received by the Town, which is being given back to employees through the increase in the health insurance benefit for the next two years.