



**DATE:** September 4, 2020  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

We received word from both Eagle and Pitkin Counties that they will remain in Stage II fire restriction going into the holiday weekend. CPW, in consultation with the Eagle County Sheriff and Fire Chief, have made the decision to re-open the Basalt shooting range as of Thursday 9/3. With hunting season upon us and in light of the recent moisture, it was concluded that this would be a prudent move to keep people from shooting in dispersed areas of the County.

Chief Knott asked me to remind the community to follow our rules to keep your trash inside until 7 a.m. the day of pickup. He was praising the community for doing a great job so far this summer. With the lack of moisture this summer, food sources are likely to be scarce as we enter the fall. Bears will turn to easier sources in the community if we do not remain vigilant. Thank you, Basalt, for keeping our wildlife safe!

The Town Council has asked for staff to arrange for regular *coffee with the Council*. While we have not finalized the details yet, staff will propose that we notice these events on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's of each month at different locations throughout Town. We will notice it as a public meeting so any Council member can show up. Please remember that Council is not able to discuss active land use applications outside of normal Council meetings. Most everything else can be discussed. Council is wanting more opportunities to connect with the public, which has been difficult during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Grizzly Creek Fire continues to burn but is now reaching containment of 83%. 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.

In anticipation of the busy Labor Day weekend, Eagle County created some marketing materials to help educate our community to influence positive behavior change. After all, we are all still looking forward to getting the kids back to the classroom and want to ensure we can have the most successful ski season possible.

Group camping and letting our guard down in the woods this weekend would be a good way to spread COVID amongst ourselves. We are focused on staying positive and encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors but reminding people to take little steps to do it safely.

Please refer to the [Risk Meter](#) for Eagle County, which is still in the "Comfortable" stage and the Pitkin County [Coronameter](#), which is still in the "Cautious" stage.

## **Police**

The Police Department continues our investigation into the events that took place at 548 Evans Court last Thursday. This is a complex investigation that is requiring many staff hours to complete and meet submission deadlines set by the 5th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

Lieutenant Aaron Munch conducted our required bi-annual Tobacco Retailer Compliance Checks for all seven tobacco license holders in Town. There were minor violations at two businesses that were immediately rectified.

Chief Greg Knott participated in a regional meeting to create contingency plans for future closures of Interstate 70 due to the Grizzly Creek Fire in Glenwood Canyon. Lake, Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield Counties along with the Colorado Department of Transportation and State Patrol staff participated in this meeting. Weather trigger points for the closure of I-70 were identified and management of alternate travel routes was planned.

## **Public Works**

This week the water department completed the warranty work on the million-gallon tank. They slowly filled the tank each day and were able to put it back online after the proper testing was done on Thursday. These repairs should put that tank in good condition for the next 20-25 years. We will have divers come out next fall to do another inspection.

The new water line to the pool was also tested and passed all inspections and has now been put online. They are currently finishing the sod and seeding of the disturbed areas around the school and trail area in Arbaney Park. Additionally, the parks department have been working with the contractor and school maintenance department to make sure the broken irrigation lines and heads are functioning properly and in put back in the correct location. We have the final project walk through and punch list meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, so that project will be wrapping up shortly.

The water department has been working with Habitat for Humanity at the Basalt Vista project to help get that water system finalized. The streets crew and water department worked together and excavated an old section of electrical conduit at Well #13 that was discovered during another project. The conduit was rebuilt and a new check valve and drop pipe were installed. We also had Holy Cross come out and upgrade the service line on the pole to avoid any future points of failure and increase safety.

We are scheduling divers for the Pinion water tank inspections next. The Turbidimeters are also being upgraded at the water treatment plant.

The streets and parks crews hauled off two large cottonwood trees that fell during an afternoon storm this week. The trees required the use of the backhoe and chainsaws to clear the area. One had fallen across Southside Drive and was blocking the roadway making it impassible for a short time.

We completed an asphalt preservation project this week on some sections of East Valley Road, Evans Road, and Willits Lane.

The facilities crew installed a new refrigerator in an affordable housing unit. It had stopped working and we were not able to get parts for it because of its age. With some ingenuity they were able to get the old one to function long enough to save the tenants large food supply recently purchased from Costco until the new one arrived. Additionally, flags were put up for Labor Day and the town shop garage bays were all pressure washed and scrubbed down.

We have been working with a private homeowner on a long private sewer line over in Elk Run and walking her through the process of that. We are bidding out the painting and concrete caulking of the Emma underpass, doing a Two Rivers Road guardrail study and replacement estimate, asphalt trail repairs, and roofing repairs to the town shop and Town Hall.

## **Planning**

**P&Z** - The P&Z worksession with the Basalt Town Council was held on Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>. This was the first opportunity of the P&Z to talk with the Council since the 2020 Master Plan was adopted and the election of Mayor and new Councilors. P&Z and Council indicated a desire for: having more discussions together, creating a downtown improvement plan, working with Eagle County for a greater mid-valley vision, weaving sustainability into consideration of actions, and examining annexation strategies. Council members expressed a great appreciation for the work the P&Z does and appreciation for their thinking even when there may be disagreement.

**Green Team** – On Monday Staff attended a quarterly meeting of the Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative. Representatives from Black Hills Energy gave a presentation on the Colorado Natural Gas Program that was rolled out this year. An Aspen Skiing Company project involving improvements at Sam's Smokehouse and Bumps restaurants that have an estimated savings of \$16,000 on yearly utility bills and 103 yearly tons of CO2 into the atmosphere was presented. The working groups provided their quarterly updates, including an overview from Walking Mountains/CLEER/CORE on the progress of the DOLA grant related to solar mapping in the tri-County region.

**POST** – POST is scheduled for a worksession with the Council on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss their 2021 work plan and budget. POST provided recommendations to Connect One Design on details for the bid documents being prepared for the Arbaney Pool project at their meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The current plan is to advertise the request for bids next week.

**BPAC** – BPAC met on Thursday to discuss its ongoing programs and its work plan for 2021. It plans to discuss its work plan with the Council on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Motio 2.0, the 5-piece public art that has been on display since 2017, is scheduled to be decommissioned on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The artist to whom the pieces belong plans to throw away the pieces, so Staff and BPAC are trying to find new homes for them.

**Block 4, Willits Town Center** – The documents are almost all ready to file for the Steadman Clinic Building. The Attorneys are working on the final document for the security for the public improvements before the issuance of a foundation permit can occur.

**BACH**- BACH met Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 a draft framework in September.

**Development Review/Applications** – Staff spent considerable time on construction related items, special event activity permits, proposed projects and on responding to inquiries on properties for sale. At their meeting on Tuesday, the P&Z recommended amendments to the 11 Duroux Lane project to construct three residential units on the industrial property that contains Helpers Restoration in the Basalt Industrial Park. At the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the P&Z will be reviewing an amendment to the R-4 MD Zone District to increase the house size for two-bedroom units for fully deed restricted units. This amendment is being requested by Habitat for Humanity for the Basalt Vista Project. The P&Z will also be reviewing a referral from Eagle County on a proposed solar array on the Tree Farm property in Eagle County on September 15th. Lot J in the Basalt Commercial Park is also in for review involving a PUD amendment, ESA review, and sketch site specific development plan review to construct a building consisting of twelve (12) residential units at the end of Emma Road near Basalt River Lofts.

**Regional Coordination** – Eagle County has several planning efforts going on that affect the Roaring Fork Valley. Many of these efforts were put on hold because of COVID 19 or are being re-shaped in response to this. The County is undertaking an Economic Recovery Plan where they have hired Community Builders to help in their community outreach. The community input will also be used in the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. The County also is updating its housing guidelines and working on code amendments. The Roaring Fork Regional Planning Commission adopted the Mid-valley Trails Plan at its meeting on Thursday.