



DATE: December 11, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The first Coloradans have now been vaccinated! There have been several discussions happening this week on the strategy and timing of vaccinations. The first vaccinations will go to medical workers and some of the most vulnerable, such as nursing home residents and workers. It is still anticipated that the general public will be a few months away, likely in late spring or early summer. There was an excellent discussion among first responders who will soon receive the vaccination regarding information and risks associated with vaccine. As the vaccine becomes more available, it will be important that we make a strong effort to educate the public about the vaccine and the role it plays in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine>

Pitkin and Eagle Counties remain in Level Orange but rules differ slightly for each. One example is that Pitkin County will now require a [traveler affidavit](#) from each person traveling to Pitkin County who plans to spend the night. This went into effect on December 14th. Please refer to the counties COVID-19 web pages for up-to-date information on restriction related to Level Orange.
<https://covid19.pitkincounty.com/>
<https://sites.google.com/eaglecounty.us/covid/landing>

There may be a good chance of an ice jam break on the Roaring Fork River from Saturday to Tuesday. Attached is a photo taken on Tuesday, Dec. 15 of the Roaring Fork River, looking upstream from the 7-11 bridge in Basalt. As you are aware overnight temperatures have been below freezing and even daytime temps have remained below freezing for the most part, resulting in prevalent anchor ice formation in the Roaring Fork River.



Police

This week, police department staff are recertifying on American Red Cross First Aid and Opioid Overdose Response. A special thank you to Brian Passenti, our Recreation Director, for instructing the First Aid training.

Our newest officers, Cortnay Young and Evan Wagstrom, started their field training this week. Over the next three months they will be paired with training officers to learn all aspects of policing in Basalt.

Last Friday evening we hosted our annual Shop with a Cop event. Seven children were paired with Basalt Police Officers to shop at the Glenwood Springs Walmart. Thank you to Walmart and Holy Cross Energy for sponsoring our event and donating \$1000 to the children. A video containing more photos from the event can be seen on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BasaltPolice>



Chief Greg Knott and Lieutenant Aaron Munch participated in several local and state meetings, this week, to plan distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. For more information regarding the phased release please visit: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine>

Recreation

Staff have reached out to talk with the School District about options for Youth Recreation in 2021. We will follow up after the holiday and hopefully begin planning for winter activities.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has recently adopted the CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) at a state level. The MAHC standardizes the aquatics health and safety

practices of aquatic venues and their construction and/or updating across the country. The State is allowing the county health officials to review and adopt the code in the beginning of 2021, according to correspondence with CDPHE. Staff have reached out to Eagle County Public Health and are awaiting a response as to their anticipated timeline for adoption. Staff have been reading into this new code for changes and updates to the operation as well as changes to the current construction process already ongoing at Arbaney Park Pool.

Public Works

Public Works has had to plow four mornings this week. The snow has been coming in waves as different fronts roll through the area. With the snow also comes the process of the push back, pile up and hauling. At this point Public Works can handle the removal of snow in house and not have to use a contractor. The forecast for the coming week looks clear so this will give us the opportunity to clean and make some repairs to our equipment.

Public Works welcomes Chris Beiser to the team. Chris that is filling Tim's position, is a Certified Arborist and comes to us from the Chicago Botanical Gardens with a background in tree care and plant health.

Public Works can do GIS mapping now for our infrastructure. We will be putting the location for our above ground assets but most importantly for our underground assets. It can be difficult to locate a water valve buried under snow, ice, and dirt so the GIS mapping will help with that. Public Works is also working to get the shadow conduit mapped. The shadow conduit is additional conduit that contractors are required to install for the Towns future use.

Planning

Green Team – This month's meeting focused primarily on a discussion on the 2021 workplan. In early 2021 the Green Team is interested in providing restaurants either with compostable take away containers or a mini grant to purchase these materials. The Green Team decided to take a measured approach with their focus on energy upgrades and greenhouse gas reduction measures for restaurants, waiting until possibly the spring when the restaurants may have more focus than just on their immediate efforts to remain open. Green Team is aware that Eagle County's proposed budget includes funds for providing CORE with finances to continue its work and rebates in the Eagle County portion of Basalt. Eagle County is scheduled to take final action on its budget on December 28th. The Green Team will also be partnering with CORE and USGBC on education and outreach opportunities in 2021. Additionally, Staff is continuing to work on the SolSmart application with CORE.

BACH – BACH made a recommendation of approval this week for two final applicants for emergency rental assistance. This will end the 2020 program. BACH anticipates returning to Council in January to discuss the parameters of the rental assistance program in 2021.

Basalt Chamber Sign Committee – The Committee met this week to refine its design for a sign at the east entrance of Town from Highway 82. The previous design, which the Committee received bids for in March, came in too expensive to pursue, so the Committee has been working with the designer to value engineer the design.

Basalt River Park – The Applicant team and staff are now holding a regular weekly meeting to make progress on the work needed to obtain a building permit. Additionally, Staff has been working with the Applicants on the entitlement documents that need to be recorded.

Development Review/Applications – The Lot J, Basalt Commercial Park Development Application for 12 residential units was initially reviewed by P&Z this week. Lot J will be going back to the P&Z in January for a recommendation and the Council will likely see the Application in February. Stott’s Mill is working with its bank to provide the required security. Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with our other construction projects throughout Town.

Arbaney Pool- The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items with Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design as the pool renovation project is underway. The plan is to complete construction by late May so that the pool may reopen for the summer. Additionally, as was noted in last week’s report, the PV panels were completed on the pool.

Special Events –The Fire Department will have its “Santa in the Hood” event on December 18th and 19th. A holiday video has been posted on the Hometown Holidays website featuring Mayor Kane, Santa and Mrs. Claus, musicians, and more. And finally, the final batch of free ornament making kit are available for pickup at Triangle Park and Art Base, where kids can also drop off a letter to Santa. The Hometown Holidays site can be found at <http://basalt.net/613/Hometown-Holiday>.

Finance

With the passage of additional federal CARES Act funding and State business support, we’ve collaborated with the Basalt Chamber to spread the word to Basalt businesses on available business assistance due to COVID impacts. We first distributed an email using the Town’s business license database to all restaurants, bars, and mobile food businesses to inform them that the State is allowing those businesses, meeting certain criteria, to keep the state sales tax collected up to \$70,000 in sales for November 2020 through February 2021 sales. Next, we sent an email to all Eagle County businesses to inform them of the \$3 million in Eagle County bridge grants. (Visit Eagle County’s website for additional information.)

The Town will also be receiving an additional \$25,000 in CARES Act funding from Pitkin County. This funding will be used to fully fund all of the Basalt business mini grants that have spent the funding and provided documentation to the Town on allowable costs. This funding must be spent by 12/30/2020.