



DATE: February 5, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The Pitkin County [business grant program](#) is now accepting applications to distribute \$1.28 million for businesses impacted by COVID 19. Applications can be found on the [Aspen Community Foundation](#) website.

Mayor Bill Kane filmed a community update this week and the link can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rn0PzRUFK8&feature=youtu.be>. The video includes an interview with Eagle County Public Health Director, Heath Harmon.

Police

Corporal Thomas Wright hosted a virtual vaping education training to twenty middle school parents. The training provided information about vaping, dangers associated with usage, and offered suggestions on how to discuss, prevent, and address underage vaping.

Police department staff met with the 9th Judicial District juvenile advisory group. This group is working to implement a district wide student truancy program. Basalt High School and the police department are active participants in this group. School district staff, Judges, attorneys, community members, and area law enforcement are all working collaboratively to address the widespread issue of student truancy.

Corporal Thomas Wright participated in the monthly Battlement to the Bells Anti-Trafficking Task Force (BATT) meeting. The task force is identifying and implementing community strategies to raise awareness and combat human trafficking in our area. The police department has been a participating member in this task force since creation. For more information about the BATT Task Force please visit <https://b2btaskforce.com/>

Lieutenant Aaron Munch is a member of the Roaring Fork Valley Opioid Workgroup. The Workgroup met this week to provide assistance to those with opioid addiction and to develop community educational programs about the opioid epidemic.

Chief Greg Knott and Lieutenant Munch met with Eagle County agencies to develop additional emergency evacuation plans.

These two also held School Resource Officer interviews with principals from the high, middle and elementary schools. Two police officers applied for the position. An appointment decision will be made in the next week. We greatly appreciate the partnership, participation, and feedback from the school principals.

Administrative Assistant Dina Prieto attended a virtual three-day Unified Crime Reporting training provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Colorado Bureau of Investigations. Monthly

crime statistic reporting is mandated by each agency and new reporting changes have been implemented. Dina is receiving training on the new requirements.

Chief Knott participated in the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police Legislative Committee. This committee provides input on bills before the State House of Representatives and Senate.

Recreation

Registration opened last evening for 3rd through 6th grade youth basketball. Modifications in the scheduling as well as a “no spectators” rule are in place for the safety of the community. We have been able to offer this program for up to 88 participants down from 112+ from last basketball season. 44 registrations were received in the first 12 hrs. We are still in need of a few parent volunteer coaches. This program will not travel and will only play our own teams in Basalt.

Staff have been reaching out to skatepark vendors. The skatepark needs some updates and maintenance. These improvements are budgeted in 2021.

Staff has recently received certification through the National Parks and Recreation Association Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP).

Public Works

This week the Christmas trees at the Arbaney Park dump site was chipped and recycled. The company we used will haul the chips to the land fill or store them on their property to mix with other material for compost. The green Christmas tree chips are so acidic that they work great for keeping grass at bay in trails but, the chips until aged, will kill ornamentals. People that own goats love to collect Christmas trees and feed them to their goats.

Public Works is taking down the holiday decorations and evaluating their condition. When we remove the decorations, we take into consideration the overall condition and decide if we can get one more year of use out of them. Fading from the sun tends to be the most degrading situation. Public Works inventories what is left and orders more decorations now when companies are offering up to 50% off for next year.

Public Works is working with the Planning Department on updating the Public Works Manual. A presentation was made to the Planning and Zoning members on Tuesday night during their regular meeting. A brief overview was presented with a more informative one to follow. The challenge with a document like the Public Works Manual is that building techniques, materials and new regulations are always evolving.

Planning

Arbaney Pool- The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items and details with Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design as the pool renovation project is well underway.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Staff participated in meeting with RFTA and the Sanitation District to work out specifications needed for the new bus station and access to sewer facilities to make progress on the construction documents for the Basalt River Park improvements. The current plan is to have a worksession with POST and P&Z at the Council’s February 23rd meeting.

Basalt River Park Development – Staff has been working with the Applicants on the entitlement documents that need to be recorded and to work through details on the next steps for construction. Staff has included an agenda item on the Council’s February 9th agenda related to the construction of Two Rivers Road. The current plan is to include an update as an information item at the Council’s February 23rd as part of the regular meeting agenda on other aspects of the development.

Green Team – Staff has worked with Carbondale’s E-Board to solidify a message for radio ads as a way of informing the public about the two-minute idling ordinance in both towns. The ads will begin running next week, and include spots on 103.1, 95.5, 91.5, and 107.1 (the Spanish speaking station). Staff is working with Aspen Times to craft a print advertisement to run in the coming days.

Sara and Councilor Hottel attended CC4CA’s Board of Directors meeting on this Friday. The Policy Committee will begin its annual review of the Policy Statement, which will be accepted by the group at its annual retreat in June and brought to member communities to ratify by September. During the Advocacy Group updates, the Clean Air division discussed the release of Colorado’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Roadmap – CC4CA has taken the position that it does not go far enough, and reduction targets need to be broken out sector by sector. CC4CA is introducing the Climate Hazard Mitigation Funding bill which can provide grants to local governments and will be overseen by a state board. Also discussed were the topics of beneficial electrification and commercial building benchmarking as supported by CC4CA.

BPAC – BPAC met on Thursday to discuss several projects that are part of its 2021 work plan. Four ice sculptures are scheduled to be finished by the end of the weekend. The four locations include two sculptures at the east entrance of the library, and one at Triangle Park, and one in historic downtown near Alpine Bank. The project is a partnership of BPAC and the Basalt Regional Library. Check out the homepage of the Basalt website for activities centered around the sculptures, including a scavenger hunt, story time and lantern making kit. The ice sculptures will remain until they melt. BPAC is also moving forward with a mural program and virtual artist studio tour program. Here are pictures of the bear near Alpine Bank.



Development Review/Applications - Stott’s Mill has the provided the required security to the Town of Basalt and to the ditch company and taking the final steps needed before starting on the infrastructure improvements. Expect to see the construction fencing going up and construction starting imminently.