



**DATE:** May 20, 2022  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

The Mayor and Town Manager visited with the Basalt Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders on Friday morning while they were busy fishing at Old Pond Park and learning about invertebrates with the Roaring Fork Conservancy team. The cold did not seem to be a distraction for them as the fish were actively chasing their hooks.



## Police

Officers assisted at the Motors on Midland event last Saturday. Event organizers put on a great event for our community members and visitors.



Officer Matt Lilly attended a Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) driving instructor training. The five-day training, in Grand Junction, certified Officer Lilly as a state approved law

enforcement driving instructor. We applied for scholarship funding from POST and will be reimbursed \$1635.00 for the cost of the training.

We have extended conditional officers of employment to two police officer applicants. These applicants passed our initial interview stages and will now enter into their background investigations. If successful, they will be hired and sent to the law enforcement training academy in August.

The VALE Board met with Town Manager Ryan Mahoney to review eleven tobacco tax grant applications. The Board made a recommendation to fund 10 requests totaling \$80,000.00.

On Saturday, Chief Greg Knott and School Resource Officer Jason Hegberg will assist at the Basalt High School graduation. Congratulations to all the graduating seniors!

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney and Chief Greg Knott attended a Ride the Rockies planning meeting. Representatives Ride the Rockies, Pitkin County, City of Aspen, Aspen Ambulance, Colorado State Patrol and the Forrest Service participated to coordinate planning efforts for the event. Ride the Rockies will be staying overnight in Basalt on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Public Works**

This week in Public Works the streets department has been continuing to sweep streets and haul away debris including sticks and limbs that have fallen onto the roadways from all the wind events. Sunday Market signs will be going up today and the river pigs that were removed for snow removal on East Sopris Drive were placed back in their original spots in case we have any mud or debris flows this spring and summer. Long line striping on the center and fog lines of the roadways are scheduled for late next week and we will also be starting short line painting next week if we can get the morning temperatures to cooperate. Short line striping includes items like parking areas, crosswalks, handicap areas, and stop bars. Thermoplastic inlays of the crosswalks and stop bars are scheduled for mid-June to be installed on East Valley Road through the commercial core. We will also be putting in thermoplastic inlays the entire length of Willits Lane and some areas around the schools as soon as this year's paving and chip seal projects are complete. The paving and chip seal contractors are thinking mid to late June for those projects right now depending on how the weather changes the schedule on the jobs prior to ours.

Parks plumbed and installed a new 2" meter that had failed in a vault in linear park at which point they were able to get the water back on to most of the park. They also fertilized the grass areas at all the parks and facilities this week. We have been working on adding trees to our GIS inventory software program in between projects.

The water department disinfected and filled the clear well and started up well #13 which ran this week for the first time this year due to the increased demand from irrigation systems. We did a tank inspection up at the Southside Tank and boosted those chlorine levels. We had a painting subcontractor rehabilitate a lot of the piping that was starting to corrode up at the water plant and in our vaults which will greatly extend lifespan of the piping and valves. We are working with SGM and our Engineer Catherine to create a water modeling system using a software and GIS program called Innowyze Infowater. Once the model is completed and calibration of the system has been completed, the model will be used to size the new water main down Midland Avenue as part of the Midland Streetscape project.

We installed a new washer and dryer and prepped an affordable housing unit for occupancy. We also continued to work on the pool and drained the solar system for the freezing weather coming this Friday.

We were able to coordinate with Climate control to get the solar warming system to integrate with the new system also so that is working well.

## **Planning**

**Basalt Center Circle Application** – The Applicant has submitted a final plan application and Staff has referred it out to the Town’s referral agencies for review. The Planning and Zoning Commission started their review of the Application on May 17<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to continue the review on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Basalt River Park Improvements** – Walters Inc. has wrapped up their work on Phase I of Basalt River Park. The architects on the bandshell and bus station/restroom continue to work on the designs for those elements of the park. Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL has begun.

**Midland Avenue Streetscape Project** – the Design Team and Town staff, have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. As part of the public outreach for the Project a pop-up booth seeking public input was manned on Midland, the Let’s Talk Basalt website was updated to provide information on the project, and a first community survey was released. The Design Team has also been meeting with various stakeholder groups, and the owners/managers of the properties along Midland to gain their input. The Design Team has formulated 3 conceptual plans which were presented to P&Z and Council in a work session on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the concepts were presented to POST for feedback on May 11<sup>th</sup>. An open house for the project was also held in conjunction with Motors on Midland on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. A second community survey is being published to gain further public input. The P&Z also held another work session on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> regarding the conceptual plans and provided feedback.

**Green Initiatives and the Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project** –Staff and McKinstry continue to work with Holy Cross Energy, the school district, CORE and members of the Green Team on the project. McKinstry has provided a cost/benefit analysis on a handful of sites for Town Staff’s review. Staff met with McKinstry and representatives of the School District last week to discuss other options for projects on School District property.

**Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support** – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

**Mid-Valley Center Lot 4** – Phase 1A of the Project has been completed, and the landscaping has been installed. Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with final design of the foundation and building. The building construction will occur later this summer.

**Basalt River Park Development LLC** – A full building permit was issued on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the affordable housing units.

**Parcel 5, Sopris Meadows Application**- The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the Parcel 5, Sopris Meadows Preliminary Plan Application on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and made a recommendation. The Council is scheduled to begin the review of the Application at the May 24<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting.

**Development Review/Applications** – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications and building permits.

**Green Team** – The Community Recycling Event is tentatively scheduled at this time for June 25<sup>th</sup> at the high school, pending the acceptance of one vendor. More information will come.

Staff and Councilor Hottel attended the quarterly Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative meeting (Staff via Zoom, Councilor in person). The new Climate Action Collaborative Manager was introduced. Members provided updates on climate action week events in the Eagle River Valley, a discussion on the overall 2019-2020 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report for Eagle County (Staff will be bringing this to Council in June), a discussion on Eagle County's Solarize project that will be rolling out soon, and members heard information on a waste and diversion report from 2021 data.

Staff attended a Finance Committee meeting for CC4CA on the hiring of a new accountant. Staff is planning on attending the second day of the yearly retreat in Vail, which will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Staff is coordinating with the Council for coverage at the short meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Staff has continued to work with CORE on finalizing the details and roll out of the Basalt Incentives Rebate program which involves providing matching rebates with CORE on a number of green initiatives related to greenhouse gas emission reductions in homes. Applicants can also look to Holy Cross for a triple rebate on some items. More information about the program will be available on the Town's and CORE's website in the next few days. The Green Team's goal is to reduce carbon emissions in existing homes, and buildings continue to be the greatest emitter of greenhouse gases within the Town.

**Basalt Sunday Market** – Planning for the Basalt Sunday Market is well underway, with over 60 vendors accepted into this year's market. Staff is currently working with the Manager on this year's market needs, which includes an advertisement for a part-time Market Assistant to help at seven of this season's markets. More information can be found at the Town's webpage under the Jobs section.

**Basalt Early Childhood Coalition** – Coalition members provided updates and discussion on the most valuable and impactful ways the Coalition can utilize its Quality Improvement funds. The facility providers that were present at the meeting indicated their staff enjoys and finds value in trainings that provide opportunities outside of the classroom. They enjoy sharing ideas and practices with staff at other area childcare facilities and enjoyed working in teams. Providers indicated their staff also has enjoyed speakers in different areas of their field. Early Childhood Network is looking to act as a hub to get trainings going again in the Valley. Kathy Hegberg provided information from her organization FocusedKids on their current programming and teaching kids about their brains. Stacy Petty of the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council provided an update on Universal Pre-K, which should begin in the summer of 2023. She explained that the application is currently being designed, and eligibility is still not defined. More details will be provided as they become available. The Financial Aid Committee will be meeting next week to go through applications and provide approval to qualifying families.

## **Finance**

Finance Advisory Board - The Finance Advisory Board met on Wednesday evening, and reviewed the quarterly Basalt Forward 2030 financial report, 1st quarter financial statements, and the April sales tax report.

Investments with Ehler's - Staff will be recommending an agreement with Ehler's to invest monies in accordance with the Town's investment policy, but at higher interest rates than the current ColoTrust rates. Staff continues to work to be good stewards of the taxpayer's money through adapting investment strategies for inflationary times.