



DATE: June 3, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The Arbaney Park Pool opened on Tuesday after a chilly Memorial Day. It will remain open for the season and regular programming such as lap swim, lessons, aerobics and free swim will be available. More information about the pool schedule and times can be found at <https://www.basalt.net/648/Pool>.

Mayor Bill Kane and Councilors Angela Anderson and Dieter Schindler filmed Town updates late last week. These can be found at <https://www.basalt.net/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=536>.

Police

We have begun planning for our annual Basalt Police Department National Night Out event. It will be held on August 2nd in Triangle Park. Roaring Fork Fire Rescue, Colorado State Patrol, Eagle County Sheriff's Office along with several other public safety and community service providers will be in attendance. Stay tuned for more details.

Over the next two weeks all officers will be attending annual firearms qualification and driver training. To maintain our State of Colorado certifications officers are required to train and qualify on these and other perishable skills annually.

We hosted our annual bicycle rodeo at the Blue Lake Preschool. Our officers and staff from Roaring Fork Fire Rescue set up a bicycle course and instructed the children on bicycle safety.

Chief Greg Knott attended a two-day fentanyl summit in Denver. During the 2022 Colorado Legislative Session laws were changed regarding possession and distribution of fentanyl. Municipal, County, State and Federal law enforcement personnel, along with District Attorney's from across the state, attended this summit to discuss the impacts of fentanyl and how we can collectively address the increasing problems caused by this poison.

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 17th and is scheduled to continue the review on June 7th. The Basalt Affordable Community Housing Commission (BACH) also reviewed the Final Plan Application last week.

Basalt River Park Improvements – 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, topsoil is being delivered to bring the site to final grade, irrigation is being installed, and the first shipment of trees will be delivered on Monday, June 6th.

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – the Design Team and Town staff, have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. The Design Team has been meeting with various stakeholder groups, and the owners/managers of the properties along Midland to gain their input. The Design Team has formulated conceptual plans which were presented to POST, P&Z and Council. A second community survey was published to gain additional input, and that input is now being considered. The Town has posted an RFP for Owners Representative Services for the Project, the RFP can be found on the Town's website.

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 review. McKinstry made a presentation to staff and representatives of the School District to discuss preferred options, and to begin selecting which should be taken to design.

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 has been ordered and 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 3rd and made a recommendation. The Council did an initial review of the Application on May 24th and continued the review to June 14th.

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 Green Code Committee meeting scheduled for today has been postponed, and first reading of the Code amendments rescheduled to July 12th.

BPAC – The Commission reviewed three BPAC grant applications at this month's meeting and is asking some Applicants for additional information prior to going to Town Council. BPAC is reopening it's grant program for another month, rather than waiting until fall, as there are nonprofits that may still be interested in applying and funding is still available. The Commission also worked on drafting a call to artists for the sculpture at the Basalt River Park that will be ready to release by the end of the month.

Special Events – The Basalt Regional Library is hosting an event this weekend called Oceans of Reading to kick off their summer reading program. The event will take place this Saturday from 12 – 4 pm and will have a variety of kid's activities and grilled foods.

Public Works

Public Works painting contractors have been busy this week putting a fresh coat of paint on the existing stripes and lines. The snow plowing and the ongoing maintenance really is hard on painted surfaces. The painting must be done annually, and, in some cases, it really needs to be done twice a year. The areas that fade the worst are the high traffic areas and especially the areas that have a lot of turning motion

as in roundabouts, corners and stops. Public Works has been working to establish more durable street lines and symbols by requiring developers to use markings called thermal in-lays that don't wear as fast. The technique is to lightly grind the street surface down to accept a pre-shaped symbol and then using a torch to adhere the symbol to the surface of the street. This technique lasts longer and saves the Town money.

The Public Works Parks Department had to make an irrigation repair in Arbaney Park this week. Our mowing contractor accidentally bumped into one of the main irrigation feeds to the park and broke the supply line which resulted in water shooting 50 feet into the air. The Public Works crew was able to get the water shut off and the repair made, the crew was not too impressed but the kids in the park sure thought it was cool.

Upgrades continue to be made on the Upper Pressure Zone (UPZ) monitoring components. The UPZ is the solution to the Basberg homes having plenty of water pressure. The UPZ was needed since the Basberg homes were built at an elevation above or equal to the average height of the Town's storage tanks. Water is treated and pumped up the mountain to a storage tank that provides a gravity feed water supply to the homes.

Finance

2021 Audit – The Town's 2021 audit is nearing completion, and I believe that the auditors and I have incorporated all criteria to qualify for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, but it takes a year for the document to be evaluated, so we will not know for certain until then. There is a lot of pertinent information in the audit related to the Town, so I encourage everyone to look at the Audit once it is released. The audit will be presented to Council on June 14 and will then be added to the Town's website. Thank you to Jenny Aragon and Town leadership for all your work on compiling information for this document!

Town Employee Salary and Benefit Survey – We emailed a survey today to all employees that will help to gauge what salary and benefits are most important to Staff, and what changes/improvements to salary and benefits are most needed from the perspective of Staff. We have awesome employees, and we want to be sure their voices are heard. The survey will close on June 10, and then I'll compile the results. We will use this information during the 2023 budget process.

Police Salary Survey – The Town is working with Graves Consulting to look at the Town's salary structure for the police department. The Town's police department has not been fully staffed for a while, so we are looking specifically at the police to determine competitiveness in the valley and other municipalities across the state. We completed a salary survey in 2021 for Town staff, and usually complete a salary survey every three years. However, due to the continued challenges with recruitment, we believe this is an important issue to look at this year. Police recruitment is currently an issue throughout the Country.