



DATE: December 16, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Pitkin County is updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan in collaboration with the City of Aspen, the Towns of Basalt and Snowmass Village, the Aspen Fire Protection District, and the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority. This plan analyzes the County's vulnerabilities to natural and human-caused hazards and identifies mitigation actions the jurisdictions can take to lessen the impacts of disasters minimizing property damage and reducing the loss of life. The Pitkin County Hazard Mitigation Plan is updated every five years and ensures the jurisdictions remain eligible for federal pre-and post-disaster financial assistance. The public comment period will end 12-29-2022.

Link to the draft Hazard mitigation Plan update:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VNzktQ6bCkGGWtLFPxdtjfywngeVCUVv?usp=share_link

Link to public comment form: <https://forms.office.com/r/hi2qB0y5K6>

Police

Our two newest officers started their field training program on Monday. This week they are attending patrol rifle and less lethal shotgun forty-hour certification training. Next week they will begin their training shifts at the police department.

Starting this month, we changed body camera providers from Visual Labs to Axon. Axon is a stand-alone body camera where Visual Labs was a cellphone-based camera system. Over the past three months Lieutenant Aaron Munch has been downloading two years of stored body camera footage that will be lost due to the provider switch. We are required to preserve body camera footage for two years to comply with state law. In total, thousands of body camera videos equaling three terabytes of information has been preserved on hard drives.

River Bridge Child Advocacy Center came to Basalt and presented "Ten Tips for Preventing Sexual Abuse". This training provides ten tips, which every parent should know, to protect their children from sexual abuse and victimization. The presentation empowers parents by teaching specific skills to make their child a less likely victim. The training also encourages open communication between parents and children on this difficult topic. I am pleased to report we had sixty parents attend this very important training.

Our annual Shop with a Cop event will take place Friday evening at Walmart in Glenwood Springs. Donations from Walmart and Holy Cross Energy make this event possible. Photos of the event will be included in a future report and posted to our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/BasaltPolice>

Planning

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – The Design Team and Town Staff have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. The design team have been working diligently to get the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project design to a 60% design level. Staff has been working with the CM/GC on a preliminary construction phasing plan. Construction will start on Midland Spur in early spring. Staff has engaged a public relations consultant, Mitzi Rapkin, whose focus is keeping the public informed throughout the Project. Mitzi presented her work to Council this week. Potholing was completed in November to gain further information on the subgrade utilities. And some geotechnical exploration of the existing retaining wall and steep slope along Midland Spur will occurred today.



Water Utility Master Plan – Town staff issued an RFP for the development of a Basalt Water Utility Master Plan which will serve to inform the planning of capital improvements, operations and maintenance, and rate increases that may be necessary to help fund the water enterprise. JVA has completed a site visit and have been working diligently on progressing the plan.

Staff applied for and was granted a Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership grant to help fund some of this work.

BPAC – The Commission met last night to finish their review of the Basalt River Park sculpture submissions and to discuss this year's ice sculptures. BPAC has formulated a primary recommendation for the River Park sculpture and are working on completing their scoring forms for their second and third recommendation from the shortlist, which will be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting. Regarding the ice sculptures, BPAC identified some viable locations between east and west Basalt, potential themes, and dates. Staff is reaching out to the local ice sculptor Thomas Barlow for more discussion. More information will follow on this subject. BPAC also appointed BPAC Member Josh Mueller to the Town's Logo and Branding Committee.

Green Team – The Green Team heard a presentation from Slate Communications regarding the Town’s logo and rebranding efforts and appointed Green Team Member Eileen Fagan to the Logo and Branding Committee. The Town Engineer updated the Green Team on the Basalt solar project, and the group supported creating an RFP for a consultant to facilitate an outreach and education campaign and webpage with contents provided by Staff and the Green Team in 2023.

Staff is attending a virtual Board of Directors meeting for CC4CA this morning. Anticipated topics of discussion include recent advocacy highlight, policy statement update process, financial report update, the proposed 2023 budget, cash management strategy, a proposed succession plan, and current/future key engagement opportunities for communities.

Community Events – The annual Chanukah Celebration and Menorah lighting at Triangle Park is scheduled for December 18th and is being coordinated by the Aspen Jewish Community Center.

Public Works

The second of the tree lightings at Lions Park went well. It is quite a production behind the scenes and involves all departments in the Town. It is a task but well worth it when you see the kids’ faces. Thanks volunteers and staff. The Menorah has been placed in Triangle Park for Hanukkah which begins this Sunday the 18th.

Public Works has been sanding and plowing all week. Due to the cold temperatures, we are not getting a thaw. So, every snow adds up to the point we must move piles around and store it. We have been clearing drains in anticipating a thaw. Public Works has continued to assist the Planning and Building Departments with their building upgrades.

Public Works West is in the final stages of completion. The electrical work is completed, and the bollards have been installed to protect the buildings entryways. All that is needed is final grading.