



June 1, 2020

News You Can Use!

Birthday Brigade; Food Voucher Program Deemed Successes

Silt's Birthday Brigade and Food Voucher programs have been deemed a success by the Town. The Birthday Brigade consisting of Silt Police, Public Works and Community Development Departments and our own Colorado River Fire Rescue (CRFR) celebrated birthdays with 81 Silt kids by activating lights and sirens in front of their houses and providing a small gift. The idea was to bring a smile to children (and adults, too!) who might be feeling a little blue for having a birthday during the COVID crisis lock down. The Brigade wrapped up its work last Friday.

Silt's "Helping Hands" food vouchers have reached many families in need, totaling 126 vouchers being passed out so far. The "Food Voucher" program was designed to distribute food vouchers in \$20 increments for use in local businesses. Silt's Trustees hoped the program would have the added benefit of encouraging others to patronize local businesses and to stimulate the economy. It is funded by \$6,000 from the General Fund.

The Town is excited to have an opportunity to offer a helping hand to our community members that have lost their jobs or experienced a financial hardship. Participating Silt businesses include:

- Burning Mountain Pizza and Subs
- Miner's Claim
- Brickhouse Pizza
- Skip's Farm to Market
- Misty's Coffee
- Taqueria Garcia

Unemployed or underemployed folks "experiencing financial hardship" or with a household income of less than \$50k are invited to participate in the program. The program has been extended to through June.

Those wishing to obtain a voucher should send an email including the above information to communitydevelopment@townofsilt.org and call 970-876-2353 x 110 for more information.

Grants Approved for Silt Businesses

At its May 4 Board Meeting, Silt Trustees passed an emergency small business grant program to assist Silt's small businesses during the CORONA-19 crisis. Established as a "loan" program, it anticipates forgiving the loan if it's used for business expenses.

Rifle Regional Economic Development Corporation (RREDC) Executive Director Katie Mackley is administering the program, similar to one the City of Rifle implemented the month before.

The concept behind asking RREDC to manage the program is that they may be able to move more quickly and nimbly than local government. This approach seems to be a good balance of accountability and moving quickly to help our local businesses until the federal assistance can reach those who have applied.

Loans are limited to \$2,000 and total program cost is \$20,000. The program will award loans on a "First come-first served" basis. Two Silt businesses have participated thus far.

Ms. Mackley has also made herself available to help Silt businesses navigate the world of funding options provided by the government, too. She can be reached at kmackley@rifleadc.com.

Silt Playgrounds Reopen

Under the State of Colorado's approval of the Garfield County Public Health Department's variance request, Silt was able to open its playgrounds last week. The request, filed on May 15 with the State, asked that outdoor recreation facilities "may remain open when adequate controls are able to be implemented" to include 6 foot social distancing. The Town has posted signs that advise playground users the playground is open and the users should "Maintain Social Distance. Per State of Colorado Variance to Garfield County for Recreation Facilities." The Town has also provided hand sanitizer in the rest rooms in most parks. For Questions, Please Call Public Works Director Trey Fonner at (970) 876-2353, Ext. 106.

The State's "Safer at Home" guidelines and Garfield County's variance are provided at the below links.

https://Oj.b5z.net/i/u/2017580/f/20-28_safer_at_home.fourthamended.52620.pdf

<https://Oj.b5z.net/i/u/2017580/f/garfield-county-variance-request-5-15-20.pdf>

Town Hall to Reopen June 8

Town of Silt staffers are busy making arrangements to reopen Town Hall on Monday, June 8. Protocols being developed are intended to keep both visitors to Town Hall and employees safe and comfortable. The following practices will be followed:

- Customers
 - Are encouraged to make phone appointments, when possible.
 - Are encouraged to handle Town business by phone, if possible, and pay bills by phone, through Xpress Billpay, US Mail or the night drop box outside of Town Hall.
- Visitors to Town Hall will be asked:
 - To refrain from visiting if they are sick or suspect that they are sick.
 - To maintain 6 feet social distancing when in the Town Hall lobby. The floor will be marked with 6 foot intervals.
 - To limit the number of visitors to the lobby to four.
 - To wear a mask when entering Town Hall.
 - To limit the amount of time customers spend in Town Hall.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available for customers in the Town Hall lobby. A plexiglas screen has been installed across the front desk with slot at bottom.

- Employees in Town Hall:
 - Will wear masks when working with customers or within 6 feet of other employees and emphasize the reason for the masks is to protect others.
 - Will use appropriate routes to Town Hall rooms to insure least amount of contact with others as possible.
 - “Cubicle” screens will be provided around open work stations.
 - Will assess screening questions daily and go home if ill.
- Guidelines for public meetings:
 - Protocols in place will help elected and appointed officials, staff, participants and other guests feel safe and comfortable. They will allow all to serve in a modified public capacity.
 - Trustees’ seats will be spaced to recognize social distancing and the hazard that meeting in a small room presents.
 - Remote meeting methods will continue to be used by members of the public, consultants and others. Please see the Town of Silt website for access to a particular meeting.
 - Required staff members will have the choice of meeting in person or via remote means.

The Town of Silt staff looks forward to welcoming Silt residents back to their Town Hall!

Watch Out for Bears!

Bears have been sighted in Town over the last couple of weeks, with at least one making a mess of a resident's trash. It might be a good idea to wait until morning to roll the trash out to the curb on trash day!

Food Assistance for Those in Need During CORONA

Food Access

High-risk seniors are encouraged to minimize public exposure when possible. Some options to help limit exposure are:

- City Market's grocery pick up (the first three are free).
- City Markets will also be open exclusively for seniors between at 6 – 7 AM every day.
- Walmart grocery pick up (free).

If you are unable to use these resources and need assistance to access food, please call Garfield County Senior Programs Manager Judy Martin at 970-665-0041. She may be able to coordinate food delivery to at-risk seniors, if required.

Food Pantries

Those in need are encouraged to stop by the following locations for a new "drive-through" format where they will be provided with a pre-packed emergency food box. Please see <https://www.liftup.org/7-food-pantries> for more information.

Volunteers are needed for this effort and folks who want to volunteer should contact Waylon@liftup.org.

Questions about Town of Silt operations? We're here to help!

For comments or questions regarding:

- Streets, parks, playgrounds, bridges, irrigation system, bulk water machines and more, contact Public Works Director Trey Fonner at trey@townofsilt.org.
- Concerts, events, planning and zoning, building in Silt, contact Community Development Director Janet Aluisse at janet@townofsilt.org.
- Town Ordinances, election laws, liquor licensing, Town records, Skyline Cemetery, contact Town Clerk Sheila McIntyre at Sheila@townofsilt.org.
- Utility billing questions regarding water, wastewater, irrigation or trash, contact Janey Dyke at jdyke@townofsilt.org.
- Police concerns including traffic and crime, contact Chief Mike Kite at mkite@townofsilt.org. □
Water and wastewater, contact Utilities Director Jack Castle at jackc@townofsilt.org.

- Opportunity Zones, Economic Development or anything else the Town is involved in, contact Town Administrator Jeff Layman at jlayman@townofsilt.org.