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April 26, 2020

News You Can Use!

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# Businesses! New Round of PPP Starts Tomorrow

## Local Application Assistance Available; Local Banks Best Source

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) resumes on April 27 after being refunded by Congress last week. It is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The US Small Business Association will forgive the loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

Business owners may apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating.

Some news reports suggest that applying through your local banks are the best way to get rapid results. Rifle Regional Economic Development Corporation's (RREDC) Executive Director Katie Mackley has offered to assist any Silt business considering the PPP application. Katie can be reached at ([kmackley@rifleedc.com](mailto:kmackley@rifleedc.com)). The Town of Silt is a supporter and member of the RREDC.

Additionally, the Town of Silt has compiled a variety of resources for both businesses and individuals who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town's website at [www.townofsilt.org](http://www.townofsilt.org) has links to this info on the home page. Those having trouble finding it are encouraged to call 876-2353 x 101 for assistance. Try [https://www.townofsilt.org/individual\\_assistance1](https://www.townofsilt.org/individual_assistance1) or [https://www.townofsilt.org/small\\_business\\_assistance](https://www.townofsilt.org/small_business_assistance).

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# Board of Trustees Meeting Tomorrow Night, 7 PM

Silt's Board of Trustees (BoT) will meet Monday night at 7 PM, once again remotely, to conduct Town business. The virtual board meetings, made possible by an emergency resolution passed last month that gives them the ability to meet remotely during times of emergency. The BoT took the action in order to maintain "social distancing" among citizens, the Board and Town staff, and since Town Hall has been closed for the same reasons.

The Board explained that because it values and considers citizen input significant to its work, tech options used for such meetings must include the public.

Tomorrow's agenda will feature:

- Second reading of an ordinance approving a lease with Highwater Farm, a non-profit serving kids in our valley through agriculture, for five acres at the Silt River Preserve, for active agricultural production.
- First reading of the ordinance annexing property known as the Village at Painted Pastures
- First reading of an ordinance zoning the Village at Painted Pastures as a Planned Unit Development
- March 2020 financials and balance sheets including a preliminary discussion about how the COVID-19 situation may impact the 2020 revenues of the Town
- Discussion of a proposed food voucher program for Silt residents to be used in Silt businesses
- Executive Session for a conference with the Town Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions

Participants either "link" in or call in and be able to hear and/or see the proceedings, as well as make a public comment during that time in the agenda. Meetings will also continue to be broadcast, as usual, on community television, as well at <https://www.townofsilt.org/>, "Livestream Broadcast" in the left hand column.

Specific information on how to participate can be found on the Town of Silt website at [www.townofsilt.org](http://www.townofsilt.org).

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## Silt River Preserve an "Essential Activity"!

Getting outside and moving is an "essential" activity, no matter what the Governor says, and the Silt River Preserve is a great place to get outside and enjoy nature! Located on Garfield County Road 331, west of Silt Island Park, the park is a "crown jewel" in the making. Used as a cow pasture for decades, the Town acquired the 130 acre parcel in 2009 with the Aspen Valley Land Trust's support and under the guidance of former Silt Public Works Director Gerry Pace.

With the AVLT, the Town has embarked on a plan to restore the land and the wildlife habitat. Last summer, a great nature trail was re-established, making it a wonderful place to mill about to enjoy the Colorado River and the wide open spaces!

So whether you are released from your “stay at home” order or not, go over to the Silt River Preserve and enjoy yourself!

## Silt River Preserve



For more information on Silt River Preserve, go to <http://avlt.org/land-protection/silt-river-preserve/>.

## State releases public health order requiring critical business employees to wear masks

Silt’s police officers, public works and water/wastewater employees will be complying with the public health order issued by the State of Colorado. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) released a new public health order ordering workers in critical

businesses and critical government functions to wear non-medical masks and gloves while at work to protect the health and welfare of the public.

Public Health Order 20 26 requires that workers in these businesses who have close contact (within six feet) with other employees or the public wear cloth masks while working. It also orders these workers to wear gloves if they are in close contact with customers. The order encourages employers to provide masks and gloves for their employees.

The critical businesses impacted by this public health order include banks, child care facilities, pharmacies, and grocery stores.

The main reason to wear a non-medical mask is to protect others. Data show that some people may spread COVID-19 when they do not have symptoms. People may spread the disease when speaking, coughing or sneezing -- especially in situations where a physical distance of six feet cannot be maintained.

Colorado is asking everyone to wear a non-medical cloth face covering while out in public. Masks can be made or purchased that will cover both mouth and nose and used when away from home.

This public health order will remain in place until May 17 unless it's extended, amended, or rescinded.

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# Support Silt Local Business

How can you help? Buy gift cards, order take out, pre-pay for services, post pics and a narrative about a trip to your favorite Silt restaurant or store!

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## FOOD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### VOLUNTEER SIGN UP REQUIRED

To volunteer with Lift Up, you must call the Garfield County Volunteer Clearinghouse at (970) 456-2804 to register prior to going to the site. The Lift Up website is here: <https://www.liftup.org/>.

To volunteer at one of the drive-thru pantries, you MUST call the Garfield County volunteer clearinghouse at 970.456.2804 to register prior to going to the site. If your desired site is full, your name and contact information will be placed on a list. It is important for everyone to continue to maintain social distancing practices so we can only allow the required number of volunteers.

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## NICOLE CENTENO, TOWN OF SILT



Silt's newly acquired youth sports program is so exciting that the Town couldn't wait to get this adventure started! To ensure this program will be of the highest quality, Silt's newest employee, Nicole Centeno, has been hard at work adding the letters CYSA, to her recreation title. Nicole's newly acquired credential as a Certified Youth Sports Administrator (CYSA) was completed through the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) curriculum. The Town is confident that the youth sports program will better serve the children of the community with the knowledge that was gained through this certification. The Town is eager for the current restrictions to lift, so the sports programs can proceed as scheduled.

In the meantime, Nicole is busy helping to connect businesses and individuals with government and non-profit assistance, posting information on the Town's Facebook page, website and variable message sign. She is also the brains behind the popular "Birthday Brigade" and "Post-a-pickup-pic" programs. She can be reached at [communitydevelopment@townofsilt.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@townofsilt.org).

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### Speaking of Silt's "Birthday Brigade" and "Post-a-Pickup-Pic"

See the Glenwood Post-Independent photo essay on the Birthday Brigade at <https://www.postindependent.com/news/silt-brings-the-celebration-to-the-children/>.

The Town's "Post-a-Pickup-Pic" simply asks customers who pick up a meal at any of Silt's restaurants to post a photo of the pickup on line to encourage others to do the same to support our businesses!

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## Silt Employees Still Busy Providing Essential Town Services

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, all essential Town services, including police, water/wastewater, and public works operations are still being provided, as usual. Town Hall may be closed for another few weeks, but several Town employees are working remotely. Residents may conduct business with the Town by phone or online. Residents are encouraged to call the department or office with which they wish to conduct business for information on how to interact with that government function.

Online services are available as usual at Xpress Bill Pay at [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com) or to drop payments into the box provided outside of Town Hall.

A complete contact list for Town departments and offices is available at [www.townofsilt.org](http://www.townofsilt.org) and at the end of this newsletter.

Garfield County Public Health updates pertaining to coronavirus are available online at [www.garfield-county.com](http://www.garfield-county.com). Residents are encouraged to subscribe to the Garfield County Emergency Management feed at [www.garfieldcounty.net](http://www.garfieldcounty.net), on which information is being updated as it comes in from state and local agencies. Residents can also register to receive emergency notifications from the Garfield County Emergency Communications Authority at <https://garco911.com>.

CO-HELP is the state of Colorado's call line for the coronavirus. People who have general questions about COVID-19 can call CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-4622911, for answers in many languages, or email them at [COHELP@RMPDC.org](mailto:COHELP@RMPDC.org) for answers in English.

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## No Water “Shut-offs”; Late Fees on Past Due Accounts

The Town of Silt will not be turning off water service to those who are past due on their accounts during this crisis. This does not mean that water customers will not be responsible for paying the amount due once the COVID –19 situation resolves, but the Town will work with customers to establish a payment plan.

In the meantime, the Town **will not** charge late fees or interest on past due account balances, either.

**Those customers who are sheltering in place are encouraged** to pay their outstanding water/wastewater/irrigation/trash balance through the Town's Bill Pay service. You may access this service at [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com).

Customers should also be aware that the Town's water staff members will not be entering homes or businesses to work on meters or other Town equipment for their safety and that of the Town's customers. With Town Hall closed to the public, the best way to get additional information regarding account balances is to call or write to Janey Dyke, [jdyke@townofsilt.org](mailto:jdyke@townofsilt.org).

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## 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](mailto:trey@townofsilt.org).
- Concerts, events, planning and zoning, building in Silt, contact Community Development Director Janet Aluse at [janet@townofsilt.org](mailto:janet@townofsilt.org).
- Town Ordinances, election laws, liquor licensing, Town records, Skyline Cemetery, contact Town Clerk Sheila McIntyre at [Sheila@townofsilt.org](mailto:Sheila@townofsilt.org).
- Utility billing questions regarding water, wastewater, irrigation or trash, contact Janey Dyke at [jdyke@townofsilt.org](mailto:jdyke@townofsilt.org).
- Police concerns including traffic and crime, contact Chief Mike Kite at [mkite@townofsilt.org](mailto:mkite@townofsilt.org). □  
Water and wastewater, contact Utilities Director Jack Castle at [jackc@townofsilt.org](mailto:jackc@townofsilt.org).
- Opportunity Zones, Economic Development or anything else the Town is involved in, contact Town Administrator Jeff Layman at [jlayman@townofsilt.org](mailto:jlayman@townofsilt.org).



**TOWN OF SILT PLAYGROUNDS  
ARE CLOSED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**



[www.townofsilt.org](http://www.townofsilt.org)