



TO: Mayor Timothy A. Kaumo and City Council Members

FROM: Department Heads

DATE: June 2, 2020

RE: Activities During COVID-19 Shutdown

The Departments within the City remained very busy during the COVID-19 Shutdown:

ENGINEERING/OPERATIONS & PUBLIC SERVICES: CITY BUILDINGS DIVISION

From Travis Turner, Building Maintenance Supervisor

Most duties during the 6 week shut down remained unchanged. Routine cleaning and maintenance continued, as other duties were added, such as:

- Cleaning and disinfecting during council chamber upgrades
- Extra disinfecting of door knobs and all hard surfaces (twice daily)
- Wiped down and sanitized restroom walls
- Shampooed chairs in Police Department conference room
- Sanitized Police Department locker rooms and showers daily
- Sanitized records desk and work area in Police department daily
- Sanitized phones, door knobs and desks in detectives office and Admin in police department daily
- Shampooed chairs and floors in downstairs conference room city hall
- Deep clean downstairs conference room city hall
- Shampooed all seating and floors in council chambers
- Shampooed chairs in downstairs hallway
- Shampooed all seating in attorney's office
- Deep clean and sanitized all finance area after covid scare

- Shampooed seating in lobby
- Painted tech room in council chambers
- Painted & Sealed down spouts on City Hall D Street side
- Hosed down all sidewalks and stairs including City Hall and Police Department parking lots
- Swept and cleaned east side parking lot city hall and police department
- Extra Sanitation throughout buildings
- Started painting boiler room in Police Department
- Cleaned and greased all air handling units city hall and police department
- Replaced the kitchen faucet at the Train Depot

PARKS & RECREATION: PARKS DIVISION

From Mark Lyon, Parks Superintendent

Completed projects:

- North Front Hedge prune and clean up
- Centennial clean-up and tree mulch, all trees
- Palisades clean-up and tree mulch
- Plowed snow April 16th
- Rail fence repairs from winter damage, Garnet, Dog Park and Century West
- Snow Fence removal at Centennial and Dog Park
- Repaired and replaced bad garbage cans, 3 downtown, New cans at Centennial and Palisades
- Trees on both sides of Railroad cleaned out and re-mulched
- Arboretum, Install tree description placards, finish cages around trees, finished irrigation to new tree locations, mowing and weed clean up.
- Trimmed all ornamental grasses on green belts and parks
- Flag poles installed at Chamber Park
- Added more mesh fence to help control trash transferring to Wetlands ponds
- Fabricated the Easter face photo board
- Ballfield fence reinstalled from sledding hill. Tied up outfield fence and edge concrete border
- Kiwanis rain gutters on dug-outs, sound system switch from Football to baseball, scoreboard control replacement and light repairs.
- Bollards installed and painted at Reagan Park for protection from vehicles
- Drainage maintenance in alley at Arthur Park
- Relocated tables, trash cans, planters and Pergola from Bank Court April 23rd and 24th
- Rebuild tree wells on Austrian Pines at Kiwanis Park and watered. April 27th

Ongoing Projects:

- Palisades tree pruning and removals
- Playground and Table bleach solution spraying three days a week Monday, Wednesday, Friday Started March 30th
- Started mowing all areas April 7th Full mow crew April 20th
- Mulched trees on Elk street both sides from A Street Bridge to Great Western
- Utilized two Civic Center employees three days a week, Tuesday thru Thursday.
- Started turning on irrigation the week of April 20th
- Rodent control, Veterans Park and Blairtown Park. Seeing some results with the new Rodentator! Started April 23rd
- Truck tree watering started April 27th
- Ongoing herbicide and pesticide spraying started week of March 23rd
- Washed out sand build up in turf on Elk Street curb side. Started April 6th
- Kiwanis and Blairtown infield mix install and practice preparation
- Daily Park Patrol and inspection, started April 6th

PARKS & RECREATION: GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE DIVISION

From Grant Yaklich, Golf Maintenance Superintendent

Most items below are usual spring activities. This year, extra effort and consideration has been given to the cleanliness and safety of the facility for employees and patrons, despite being down one staff member for over a month.

- opened the golf course early for play
- by the end of April approximately 3400 rounds
- new - Daily disinfecting of the shop, equipment, locker rooms and outdoor equipment
- A few changes, NO RAKES, WATER COOLERS, BALL WASHERS, and SAND AND SEED BUCKETS OR CLUB WASHERS set on the course.
- one rider per golf cart - we are seeing additional impact on the course with the increased cart traffic
- 3" pvc sleeves installed on all cups to eliminate the need to pull flagsticks while playing.
- Benches were put out on the course but are cleaned with disinfectant
- Daily reminders of COVID 19 rules and regulations regarding personal behavior

Projects:

- new main line y-strainer installed in pump house #1
- tank watering greens during early part of the season prior to irrigation
- irrigation systems charging
- irrigation system operation and repair
- removed all greens covers
- removed all snow fence
- started repair to driving range net

- daily regular course prep; mowing, course set-up
- replaced the water meters in pump houses
- our end of clubhouse prep for opening
- first application of greens fertilizer applied
- reduced ballfield prep, no scheduled practices yet, just for public use

PARKS & RECREATION: GOLF PRO SHOP DIVISION

From Aaron Allred, Golf Pro

Rounds are up around 35 percent from the average of the last 3 years. It is believed that the restrictions and other variables that the people are dealing with is the reason for the increase. There are many kids coming out with parents, etc.

The following activities/rules have been added due to COVID-19:

- No rakes in the bunkers.
- No water coolers on the course.
- No ball washers on the course.
- Plastic sleeves in the hole so that the ball will never enter the hole and never have to be retrieved out of the hole. Customers never have to touch a flagstick.
- Only allowing one person per cart unless they are living together.
- Sanitizing the golf carts after every use. Then washing it before we put them away.
- Not allowing people to use the handicap computer to post scores.
- Only 10 people in the shop.
- All customers 6 feet away at all times
- We marked on the floor of the pro shop where people can stand and wait.
- We put signs on windows and doors reminding people to stay 6 feet away.
- We put dry erase signs in front of the doors reminding people of the main rules.
- We have tried hard to inform every golfer of what to do while playing etc.
- We put information on our TV that is right behind the check in counter reminding people that if there is 10 people in the shop that they have to wait outside.
- We took practice green ball racks off so people would not use them.
- We wash the range balls before we put them back in the range machine.(has not happened all the time)
- We sanitize range baskets and tokens.
- We will not be allowing people to rent our golf clubs.
- We encourage customers to use credit cards. If they use credit cards, we do not have to touch them at all. People are still paying in cash.
- Snack shop will be curbside only.
- We will clean bathroom and wipe down counters and doors as much as we can.

- I ask all employees if they are feeling well and if they have traveled to any place outside of the county.
- I watch employees closely to check for red eyes, coughs, fevers and running noses.
- I had the Men's Association president write a letter to the members saying to please follow the rules during their events to they don't jeopardize us staying open.

With the new rules and regulations, we have had some challenges that we have had to face, such as when we have the single cart riders and we have 340 rounds, it is as if we are having a 680 round day. Check in still feels the about the same, but cleaning carts, re-parking them and having the extra step of sanitizing them, is time consuming. We have spent more on payroll this spring then last spring to stay on top of these tasks. We sometimes have to have more people outside handling carts then inside checking in which makes check in more difficult. For the most part people are very courteous and thoughtful about the rules that we have. There have been several times where we have to ask people to wait outside so we can stay under the ten-person mark in the pro shop.

We have had a few of our major tournaments cancel for the year. The SPE and Young at Heart are the two that have canceled so far. These two tournaments bring in about \$20,000 dollars. We will make up some of that by having regular play during these times, but it will not cover the \$20,000.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the staff that I am allowed to have. They have been working hard. There have been many times where we have gone without breaks or lunches make sure things are taken care of. Thank you to Dave Lansang, the Parks & Recreation Director and Mayor Kaumo for being able to keep employees working during this time. I am very grateful that we can do this. I am thankful for my employment with the city and have enjoyed my time here. I look forward to when things can become a little more normal.

PARKS & RECREATION: CIVIC CENTER DIVISION

From JJ Syvrud, Civic Center/Programs Superintendent

COVID-19 Civic Center Closure Projects:

- Deep clean and sanitize pool:
 - Deck
 - Fins, jackets,
 - All aquatic exercise equipment
 - Algae scraped off bottom of pool (scuba divers)
 - 20 years of calcium deposits removed around pool gutters
 - Re-caulk pool cutters
 - Deep cleaned and power scrubbed the deck
- Paint
 - Front Office

- Room A (Party Room)
- Upstairs Cardio Room
- Stretching Room
- Hallway to gym
- Ceilings of Men's & Women's locker rooms
- Repaint men's stairs
- Main and 3rd floor N hallway painted
- Main and 3rd floor S hallway painted.
- Covered up burn mark above women's locker room with waves
- Steam Cleaned (essentially every piece of carpet in the building)
 - Bottom level stairs
 - 3rd floor hallways
 - Main floor hallways
 - Couches
 - Superintendent/ Rec Supervisor offices
 - Ramp hallway
 - Party room
 - Cardio Room
- Maintenance and upgrades
 - Concrete fix in front of doors
 - Fixed broken hardware on gym doors
 - Installed Tectum and touched up paint in Free Weight Room
 - Trimmed gym divider curtain (been an issue forever)
 - Pulled the tape and cleaned up residue in the gym
 - Grind paint off of Men's Locker room stairs (tough job...a lot of time spent here)
- Trainings
 - Lifeguard Training session
 - Wall Training session
- Outdoor Pools
 - Washington Pump room assembled
 - Re-plumbed Blairtown circulation pump and pipe.
 - Summerized Garnet Spray pad
- Daycare
 - Although it has just been children within the CC, it has allowed Cody and Ariel to accomplish a lot while here.
 - These 2 had 2-4 kids every day.
- General Cleaning and organization
 - Under the stage (sports equipment)
 - Shelves by pump room
 - Closet by the lobby

- Lockers in locker rooms repaired.
- Added lockers to
- Cleaned out equipment and sent to surplus
- Administrative
 - P: Drive organized
- Climbing wall
 - Replaced many routes
 - Removed and replaced large volumes
 - Conducted cross training
 - Deep cleaned crash pads and flooring

PARKS & RECREATION: FAMILY RECREATION CENTER DIVISION

From Robyn Rasmussen, Family Recreation Center Superintendent

Pool Area

- All hot tubs have been drained and sanitized
- Pool decks in the lap pool and lazy river natatorium have been scrubbed and sanitized
- Each tile in the lap pool has been scraped free of the calcium scale by hands of Breanna Wheeler. (process took almost the entire closure)
- The wall tiles have been scrubbed and descaled in the natatorium
- All the glass walls have been cleaned from the ceiling to the floor
- All of the pool deck chairs and tables have been scrubbed and sanitized
- Each vinyl coated lifejacket has been hand sanitized and nylon lifejacket has been ran through the clothes washer.
- New lifejacket hangers were built by Boy Scouts...
- All water exercise implements have been scrubbed and sanitized
- Leaky 12 year old actuator valves have been replaced on the lazy river
- All the intake air vents have been vacuumed and sanitized.

Hallways and common gathering areas

- All the cushions of the couches located in the main entry area have been mended, sanitized, and steam cleaned. As well as the bases the couch cushions sit upon have been sanitized and oil rubbed.
- All carpets from the front doors, down the pyramid steps, and throughout the entire basement have been steam cleaned. (Ken Petty)
- All of the hallways in the basement have been painted ceiling to floor. (Steven Profazier)
- The men' and women's bathrooms on the main level were also painted.

Gym changes

- Backboards cleaned from the glass to the rafters.
- Walls scrubbed and sanitized from the ground to about 5 feet up around the entire gym.

- Tuff-Flex has been scrubbed and sanitized. (now it is red not black) Landon Toth, Bryanna, Carroll, Jase Reese, and Ceasar Del Villar-Rodriguez
- All spin bikes were disassembled, deep cleaned and maintained. (Leslie Zanetti)
- All storage areas have been cleared out and cleaned. (items readied for surplus)
- Entire gym floor was wet mopped and polished.

Men's, Women's, and Family Change Locker Rooms

- Steam cleaned carpets.
- All lockers were wiped out, cleaned, and sanitized.
- Tile in the showers and bathrooms were de-scaled and scrubbed.
- All air vents were scrubbed and sanitized.
- Women's locker room got a fresh coat of paint.

Throughout the building

- Sign clutter removed was removed from the walls.
- New cleaner signs are in the process of being made.
- Sound baffling on walls vacuumed and wiped down and some will still be covered with new fabric.

Track

- Tuff-Flex scrubbed and sanitized. (it was yellow not black)
- Walls scrubbed from track surface to about 5 feet up
- Rails all cleaned and sanitized
- Stairwells between track and gym swept and cleaned

Children's Play Area

- All the large foam blocks were scrubbed and sanitized.
- The large play feature was dusted, scrubbed, sanitized and polished inside and out.
- The area behind the play structure was cleaned and sanitized.

Wee Care

- All surfaces were cleaned and sanitized.
- The carpet was steam cleaned.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION: ROCK SPRINGS MAIN STREET/URA

From Chad Banks, URA Manager

The URA took advantage of the public closure to accomplish some tasks that had been on our list for quite some time.

Much of our time was utilized trying to assist the Downtown merchants in coping with the impacts of COVID 19 and the closures. We were in constant communication with the merchants;

relaying information and trainings, offering guidance and sometimes just being able to listen to their struggles. To assist with the impact as much as possible we launched a few programs specific to the virus:

- Curbside challenge – We launched a curbside challenge program to encourage folks to order meals to-go from our local restaurants. The program ran via social media the month of April. It resulted in nearly 150 posts from Sweetwater County residents generating 2,663 social media reactions, 552 comments and dozens of shares. The merchants reported strong sales during the time with most meeting their sales goals. While most did have to lay off a good majority of their wait staff, the promotion helped drive sales during the closure.
- SBA Loan application webinar with RSNB – When the SBA loans were announced, there were more questions than answers from our local business owners. To fill the void of information, we worked with RSNB Bank to host a webinar for business owners. We had 48 attendees from around Sweetwater County (and beyond) for the live meeting. Ben Hansen walked through the 2 applications and we fielding dozens of questions. We also recorded the webinar and it's been downloaded dozens of times.
- Gift card promotion – We ran a program encouraging residents to buy gift cards from salons and retailers as a way to continue to support them.
- Support local bingo – A local BINGO card was developed as a way to keep spirits high during the closures. While it did include some business promotions (ordering take-out or delivery, etc) it also included things like checking on neighbors who may be shut in, taking advantage of community parks, picking up litter, etc.
- Community Survey – We conducted a survey to gauge the thoughts of our community on retail, restaurants, events and entertainment. 181 folks took the survey and we shared the results with our Downtown business owners. We wanted to know how quickly residents were going to feel comfortable dining out, shopping, attending events and participating in entertainment options. We'd be happy to share the results if you're interested in seeing them.

When we weren't dealing with COVID issues, we did get quite few projects off the list.

- Art Underground: We announced an artist call for new artwork in the pedestrian underpass. We had over 20 canvases ready and they were snapped up pretty quickly. A local Scouting group will hang the pieces after Memorial Day. We won't host a ribbon cutting for the new artwork though, due to space and the number of folks who attend (unless things change). However, we'll announce it on Facebook and via a press release encouraging folks to view the artwork on their own.

- Wyoming Arts Alliance Pilot Community: We've been meeting with the Wyoming Arts Alliance as one of the pilot communities in the state. The meetings were supposed to be in person but they've been moved online with an in-person component currently set for June. The online meetings are every Tuesdays at 10 am and last 1-1.5 hours. If you'd like to join, please let me know and I'll be happy to forward the meeting link; we'd LOVE to have your input and ideas.
- Downtown flowers and planters: Most plants for the Downtown flowers pots have been ordered and will be here the week before Memorial Day. We plan to plant them on Wednesday, May 27 right now and would love any help. There's plenty of opportunity to practice social distancing while planting.
- Website: We launched a new website a few weeks ago for DowntownRS.com. It looks great and has a terrific blog feature where we've been including all of our press releases, etc. Take a look - DowntownRS.com. We're also completing the design review for the Broadway Theater site. It should be live next week
- Historical Walking Tour: We finally got the historic walking tour online! You can view it on the website here:

<https://pocketsights.com/tours/tour/Rock-Springs-Downtown-Rock-Springs-Historical-Walking-Tour-4011>

However, it's intended to be downloaded via the Pocket Sites app so you can utilize your smartphone to take the tour, beginning at the museum. This has been on our agenda for a long time so it's exciting to have it mobile friendly now. It took quite a bit of time to re-type all of the text for the tour and upload it to the site along with the photos.

- Brown Bag Concert Series: We've made the decision to push back the beginning of the Brown Bag Concert Series to July 7. It would typically begin in June, from 12 to 1:30 each Tuesday in Bank Court but there are a few challenges this year. Bank Court has been cleared of everything (picnic tables, stage, planters) since work on the bank building has begun. We plan to move the concerts to the grassy area behind the Sweetwater County Health and Human Services building (old Rock Springs National Bank.). The space is smaller so social distancing there will be more challenging. Once the concerts do begin, we'll encourage folks to bring lawn chairs since our picnic tables from Bank Court have been moved to storage for now. .
- Rods and Rails Car Show: While not a URA event, we do assist the committee with Rods and Rails and it's certainly one of the biggest Downtown events of the season. The event won't be taking place during its usual time in June this year. In order to make it work, the committee has to get sponsor commitments now and that's just not happening. It's not a good time to reach out to sponsors. We're working with them to look at some alternative ideas or combining with other events.

- **Mini Golf Course:** We opened the mini golf course last week. We removed all the tarp covers, did some general clean-up of the site and replaced the clubs, balls and score sheets for the season. Like above, we haven't heard back from some sponsors but are moving forward.
- **Blues n' Brews:** Blues n' Brews has been the trickiest to pin down. As of today, we're still planning to host it on August 8 in Bunning Park. However, many brews events scheduled for June have been pushed into August and two (Idaho Falls and Cheyenne) have rescheduled over our dates. We will be adjusting the event this year. Our plan is to shorten the event and offer unlimited sampling this year, like most brew fests in Wyoming. We'll be 2 pm to 8 pm this year (2 to 3 will be a VIP time). Admission will be \$35 (\$45 for VIP) and include unlimited SAMPLING. We won't be selling or filling pint glasses this year, like we usually do. We're hoping we'll have brewers committed but also haven't heard from many yet. Most are currently closed or offering limited curbside service so it's not a good time to connect with them. This is pretty fluid so it may change several times before the actual event, if we're able to host it at all. As our largest fundraiser of the year, the cancellation of this will have a big impact on our operations, particularly our ability to provide grants to Downtown merchants.
- **2nd Saturdays:** These started off HUGE in February then COVID 19 hit around the time of the March one and it was awful. We obviously didn't have one in April or May, but hope to bring them back in June. The YWCA is working on a Downtown scavenger hunt fundraiser for the June date so we're planning to work with them. We've already confirmed participation with many Downtown merchants and it won't be large crowds and social distancing can still be practiced.
- **Taco Fest:** We did cancel this year's Taco Fest which was scheduled for May 9. This was another fundraiser we've lost this year but hope to bring it back in 2021.
- **Broadway Theater:** Theater operations have been suspended since mid-March and remain so. Several shows and events were cancelled but we're working on the 2020-21 season now. We took advantage of the closure to complete some deep cleaning of the Broadway Theater which included every closet, nook and cranny. All surfaces were cleaned and sanitized including each seat in the theater. We also touched up the paint that had gotten worn around the ledges and baseboards.
- **Downtown First Awards:** Since we were unable to host our annual volunteer reception and Downtown First Awards in April, we presented the awards virtually via a Facebook live event. We solicited nominations for the awards from the community and received over 60. We also worked with local artist Susie Von Aherns again this year to develop the custom awards. The live video has reached over 3,600 people with 916 engagements!

- ARTini: Our last meeting was mid-March before the restrictions so we haven't met since. We were about to send out letters to the bars and liquor distributors but have postponed that. The event is planned for August 21 so we're still hopeful that will occur as this is another fundraiser for our program.
- Facade Grants: We are one of three communities in Wyoming selected for a facade program from the National Park Service. The program has \$140,000+ for the three Wyoming communities and they plan to divide it among all three fairly evenly. They're hoping to have 5-7 projects in each community with grants from \$5k to \$25k.

They only require a 30% match so it's a great program. We've sent letters to Downtown property owners and have been following up with them. We have several interested so far. Some of had initially expressed interested are now on hold due to the economic pressures of the closures. Fortunately the program will take place over 12 months so we do have some time.

- Grants: We were able to submit several grant applications during the closure. These include:
 - Grills Grant from the National Main Street Center for a COVID response
 - SHPO for First Security Bank (updated to request an additional \$10k)*
 - Wyoming Arts Council for the Broadway Theater
 - AARP Livable Communities
 - Grow Walls from Wyoming Main Street*
 - Placemaking from Wyoming Main Street*

*Those with an * were successful, while we're waiting to hear on the others.*

- BOCES Broadway Theater Intern: BOCES funded the theater intern again for the fall and spring of the coming season. We announced the program and are accepting applications now. We'll select the fall intern in the coming weeks.
- Community Clean-up: We picked up trash, weeds and liter throughout Downtown including vacant lots, the bike paths, etc.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION: MUSEUM

From Jennifer Messer, Museum Coordinator

The Rock Springs Historical Museum was closed under direction of Mayor Kaumo to the public starting on 21 March and was reopened with our regular hours on 11 April 2020.

While the RSHM was closed to the public, staff was able to deep clean and organize all of the building's interior storage. All like items, catalogued or not, were moved to the same shelves and are housed together. It will now be possible for staff to choose a section to work on and more easily determine what is held by the Museum. We will be able to see what needs catalogued and photographed, and be able to find items for display and donors in a timely manner.

The consolidation of artifacts in storage made enough room that we were able to open up the Judge's Chambers upstairs as a new display! This room now offers a look at one of the original function of the old City Hall building, and can showcase the artifacts, books, photographs, and ephemera from several of our local judges, and a host of past mayors, and political figures. We are very excited to have another spot on site to show off our Rock Springs history.

Staff was able during the closure to move the Coal Room around, do some deep cleaning and unblock the windows. The Transpiration Room, Police Station and Jail, and the Fire Station all were cleaned and cases were refreshed with new items. Exhibits Coordinator Janice Brown was able to move the Butch Cassidy display to make more room in the Police Department, and add to the displays of local outlaws. She also began putting together a display about the White House in Rock Springs and local ladies of the evening during the cola camp days.

Administrative Assistant Richelle Rawlings-Carroll spent the closure, particularly the month of April working almost exclusively on finding and organizing the books, documents, maps, letters, photographs and negatives in the collection, and sorting all the other kids of paper ephemera. She has made some gratifying headway in organizing those collections; we now have idea of what the collection has for research opportunities. Staff will soon be able to set up a dedicated area to start scanning photographs, documents, and papers for research.

Museum Coordinator Jennifer Messer spent the closure finding, organizing and cataloguing the thousands of maps in the collection and making sure the online media and research questions were taken care of in a timely manner. Messer supported staff in moving furniture, hauling boxes, cleaning, and providing guidance on moving items in the Museum.

Now that the Rock Springs Historical Museum is open again, staff is taking precautions to keep themselves and visitors safe and healthy, including wearing protective face coverings, maintaining social distance, and wiping down touchable surfaces often and well. We are excited to have made so much progress in the past month and a half and are looking forward to being able to make some new steps this summer in improving the Museums offerings!

We appreciate Mayor Kaumo and Matt McBurnett, Director of Administrative Services for helping us stay safe and still be able to take care of the Museum during this time.

Jennifer Messer, Museum Coordinator Rock Springs Historical Museum

April 2020 Information Sheet

Visitor Numbers

- 0 total for April
- 644 total 2019 - 3 School Tours & 1 Scout Tour
- 966 total 2018 - STEAM train at museum
- 543 total 2017

Meetings/Tours

- Museum Coordinator Jennifer Messer is participating in the Wyoming Arts Alliance professional development training with the Rock Springs Downtown. Meetings have been conducted on Zoom, each Tuesday of the month starting at 10:00 am to 11:00 or 11:30 am.
 - Tuesday the 7th "Rock Springs Professional Development Introduction"
 - The 14th "Rock Springs Professional Development – Grassroots Advocacy"
 - The 21st "Rock Springs Professional Development - Grassroots Advocacy"
 - The 28th "Workshop for Questions/Mentoring"
- The Museum Board did not hold their regular meeting on Wednesday the 8th.
- The Museum continued weekly staff meetings with Matt McBurnett Director of Administrative Services for the City of Rock Springs on Mondays by phone.

Events

- Since visitors were not able to access to the Museum exhibits Messer worked to make sure there was something for visitors online every day in April. The Museum Facebook page posted at least one item celebrating our local history, Wyoming History, or fun videos and stories from Museums around the county during the whole month. Posts included: the Woman's Club of Rock Springs, former fire chief Richard Canestrini, John Putz's blacksmiths shop, the Rock Springs High School, the Union Pacific Coal Company Power Plant, the town of Superior, and photos from the RSHM collection. We posted about the statewide history from the past 100 years, information about the current US Census, Museums outside the state in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, New York, and Utah. Photos and stories about the 1920's, President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt and his teddy bears, Easter, and a mystery from the American Heritage Center, Holocaust survivor's stories, the film Jump Shot: The Kenny Sailors Story, and Japanese Friendship Dolls from the Wyoming State Museum.

Exhibits

- Saturday April 4th was Smithsonian Magazines Museum Day; this year's theme was "EARTH OPTIMISM!" in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. We chose to celebrate with an online version of our planned display about Finis and Emma Mitchell.

The Mitchell's were devoted to the land, they loved being out hiking in Wyoming and wanted nothing more than to share that love with others.

- Exhibits Coordinator Janice Brown began putting together a display on the world's oldest profession here in Rock Springs in one of the jail cells. The display will be completed with text and images in May.
- The display "100 Years, the 20's Come Roaring Back!" continued to be on display featuring clothing, accessories, art and advertisements from the 1920's. It will continue to be on display through at least the end of May.
- The Rock Springs Historical Museum's continued to have their spring exhibit, "Homegrown Leather Craft" featured the work of brother and sister duo Braids Roberts and Travis Roberts from Prairie Fire Leather Company, and Bill and Megan's Leather Work, a joint effort by Megan Matsuura and Bill Beard. The display has everything from tooled wallets, to cross body purses and horse tack, a clock crafted out of tooled and painted leather alongside pistol holsters, saddle bags and business card holders. All the work is for sale, and the artists are happy to have potential buyers contact them. The show will be on display through the end of April.
- The posters featuring Calamity Jane and an invitation to stop by and visit the Rock Springs Historical Museum continued to be on display at a dozen local hotels.

Other

- None

New Collections

- Administrative Assistant Richelle Rawlings-Carroll worked through the month of April to sort through, organize, and catalogue the paperwork, photographs and negatives, and texts in the Museum.
- Messer picked up Charlene Larson donation Monday the 20th

The Rock Springs Historical Museum continued to remain closed to the public by order of the Mayor on through the month of April. During this time staff continued to work in the building, while practicing good hygiene and social distancing from each other. We have undertaken to clean, sort, organize, and catalogue all the items in the Museums storage. Staff has systematically worked to organize items by type, and identify which items need additional steps taken in cataloging, preservation, or documentation.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION: HOUSING AUTHORITY

From April Thompson, Housing & Community Development Supervisor

The COVID-19 pandemic presents significant challenges for the Rock Springs Housing Authority as we continue our mission to provide decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for low-income families. Program operations have been impacted by the current crisis and the RSHA has adapted operations in order to continue to provide services to our community. Staff continued to work during the crisis and their workload increased.

- The lobby and entrance to the building was remodeled to limit the amount of contact with the public yet still allow staff to continue to provide services to tenants and applicants
- Maintenance completed 59 emergency work orders
- Grounds at all locations are being maintained and several trees planted
- Office staff gave out 63 applications for assistance
- Processed 13 returned applications and added the applicants to the waiting list
- Conducted 24 interim certifications for public housing tenants, and 8 interim certifications for the section 8 program, the majority of which were due to loss of income
- 3 new admissions to the public housing program
- 5 new admissions to the section 8 program
- 27 annual certifications were completed for the public housing program
- 15 annual certification were completed for the section 8 program
- Received additional funding for the public housing program and the section 8 program