

# 2021-08-10 LAC Report

Legislative Affairs Coalition Update for August 10, 2021

## Unemployment Rate Update

- La Plata County unemployment rate was 5.8% in June, up from 5.3% in May.
- San Juan County was 5.5% in June, up from 5.2% in May
- Archuleta County was 5.3% in June, up from 4.8% in May

See more here: <https://dola-online.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=56f85bf2c38e4483ad7345fc651a6458#>

## City of Durango New Hires

- New Parks & Rec Director, Ture Nycom, from Fruita, CO, begins August 11, 2021
- Full list of New Hires in 2021 is attached.

## City of Durango Vacant Positions

- ARFF/Operations Technician \$20.26/hr
- Business Development & Redevelopment \$60,558-\$70,000/yr, DOQ
- Community Events Administrator \$55,080.03-\$77,112.05/yr DOQ
- Custodian-City \$15.19/hr
- Fleet Maintenance Worker \$15.19/hr
- Landscape Architect \$66,646.84/yr DOQ
- Library Associate \$16.70/hr
- Planner I \$55,080-\$62,000 DOQ
- Purchasing Administrator \$24.07/hr
- Police Officer \$26.48/hr
- Recreation Technician \$18.38/hr
- R/T Customer Service Specialist \$18.37/hr
- Sr. Custodian \$16.71/hr

Learn more here: <https://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/18508/Current-Job-Listings-PDF>

## La Plata County New Hires

- Full list of New Hires in 2021 is attached.

### **La Plata County Vacant Positions**

- Digital Media Specialist \$21.72-\$25.00/hr
- Maintenance Worker II \$18.13/hr
- Custodian/Maintenance Worker I \$14.59/hr

Learn more here:

[https://www.co.laplata.co.us/departments/human\\_resources/current\\_job\\_announcements.php](https://www.co.laplata.co.us/departments/human_resources/current_job_announcements.php)

### **La Plata County Sales Tax Update**

- Sales tax collections for March show an increase of \$34,533 or 1.79% in comparison to the same period in 2020. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$513,582 or 10.97% as compared to the same period in 2020. Lodger's tax collections are earned Quarterly; Quarter 1 Lodgers tax increased \$151,882 or 186.85% in comparison to Quarter 1, 2020. Quarter 2, 2021 lodgers tax will be available on the August 2021 Financial Status Report.
- Sales tax collections for April show an increase of \$474,867 or 34.33% in comparison to the same period in 2020. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$988,449 or 16.30% as compared to the same period in 2020.

### **Durango Sales Tax Update**

- Through June 2021 (i.e., year to date) the City would typically expect to have 47% of revenues collected. Currently Sales and Use Tax are at 58% of total collections therefore the City is ahead 11% of projections for Sales and Use Tax. In this area Sales Tax Collections are \$1.7 Million above budget. Charges and Services continue to lag due to collections of Recreation Center Fees as a result of COVID19.
- Currently Lodgers Tax is at 45% of total collections. Lodgers Tax is steadily rebounding and will have an additional percent revenue collected.

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds**

- LPC is holding approximately \$10.9 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds pending public input on how to best spend the money.
- The County is planning to hold a work session later this month as well as a community forum and a public meeting. A final work session is planned in September.

- Commissioners are seeking to spend on legacy projects that would have a lasting impact.

### **Durango Sustainability Plan**

- The city of Durango is in the process of updating its Sustainability Plan and is seeking public input on draft plan strategies and actions via a series of virtual workshops.
- The workshops will focus on different plan sectors and will be held virtually, starting at 5:30 p.m.
- Find meeting links at [DurangoGov.org/Zoom](https://DurangoGov.org/Zoom)
  - August 12: Sustainable Consumption & Waste
  - August 19: Economic Vitality & Quality of Life
  - August 24: Water
  - August 31: Energy
  - September 14: Transportation & Land Use
  - September 23: Natural Systems

### **Bayfield Land Fill Update**

- La Plata County will hold an informational meeting to address public concerns about the closed Bayfield Landfill west of the town on County Road 223.
- The meeting will be held virtually at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25. To join the meeting, visit [us02web.zoom.us/j/82742366812](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82742366812).
- The meeting will discuss detectable vinyl chloride levels, possible associated risks, the investigation of nearby wells that were found to be clean and ongoing monitoring.

### **Durango Projects Approved**

- On 7/26, Durango Planning Commission approved the Farmers Fresh Grocery Store Minor Subdivision, Preliminary Plan and Major Site Plan Review, a plan to create two lots out of the existing 4.52-acre lot and develop a 35,000 SF grocery and liquor store on the westerly lot located at 400 Wilson Gulch Dr.

- On 7/20, Durango City Council approved a request from Shaw Ltd for a Re-Zone and Conceptual Development Plan approval for a new residential Planned Development at 1689 Florida Road. The subject property is 2.7 acres and is located at the NW corner of Metz Lane and Florida Road, and currently contains 3 residential rental units. The applicant intends to remove the existing housing units and build 24 townhome units configured as 12 separate duplex structures.
- On 7/20, Durango City Council approved a request from Durango Christian Church to subdivide the 15,000 square foot parcel with an existing church and single-family residence at 255 E. 11th Street/1105 E. 3rd Avenue into two smaller lots, one lot containing the church and one lot with the residential unit.

**Meetings attended July 13 - August 10**

7/13 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting	7/22 - 1 pm Joint Durango/BOCC Meeting*
7/14 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	7/22 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission Meeting*
7/14 - 5:30 pm Durango Water Master Plan Meeting	7/26 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission Meeting
7/15 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission CANCELLED	7/27 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting
7/19 - 5 pm Durango Multiplex Meeting	7/28 - 8:30 BOCC Discussion Time
7/20 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting CANCELLED	8/3 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting CANCELLED
7/20 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session*	8/3 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session
7/20 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting*	8/3 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
7/21 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time*	8/4 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time

\* Meeting was not attended live but was covered after the fact.