



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: May 10, 2021
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

This monthly report serves as an update to Council on key projects, activities, and community issues.

LIMITED COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

On April 16th, the COVID-19 Dial evolved into Public Health Order 20-38: Limited COVID-19 Restrictions, which allows counties to implement regulations at the local level while still maintaining some limited requirements across the state. Counties may use the statewide dial framework as a model for implementing their own regulations. However, the Dial is no longer a statewide order. Click [HERE](#) to check out Public Health Order 20-38: Limited COVID-19 Restrictions.

OURAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER NO. 12

The Ouray County Board of Health and Ouray County Public Health Director enacted Ouray County Public Health Order No. 12, requiring all persons to wear a face covering within any public indoor space in Ouray County. The order went into effect on May 7th and will remain in effect until June 6th. Click [HERE](#) to check out the Order.

HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Work is underway! A crew from Clarke & Co. is on site and has begun constructing Phases 1 and 2 of the Heritage Park/Visitor Center landscape and irrigation improvements. Phase 1 consists of installing an irrigation system, soil improvements, and planting shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses around the Visitor Center. Phase 2 consists of installing hardscape, landscape, and irrigation along Highway 62 at Heritage Park. The crew is slated to be on site under the work is complete, which, right now, is scheduled for early to mid-July.



VISITOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

The functional and COVID-19-related renovations to the Visitor Center are inching closer to completion. The Visitor Center will open later this month. The fourth



meeting of the Visitor Center/Heritage Park Advisory Committee will hold a fourth and final meeting in June to review and make a recommendation on an Implementation Plan.

CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is launching this relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
- Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each government to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest hit by the crisis. These funds can also be used to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Eligible local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units, which Ridgway is, should expect to receive this funding through their applicable state government. Non-entitlement units are generally local governments with populations of less than 50,000.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY

The Town is in the process of seeking proposals from qualified and experienced consultants to conduct a Classification and Compensation Study. The purpose of the project is to review the current salary market in comparison to the Town of Ridgway and to review existing classification/compensation plans and make recommendations for ensuring that these positions are internally equitable and externally competitive. The full Request for Proposals is available at <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/resources/requests-for-proposals/bids>.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Ridgway Youth Advisory Council wrapped up their Renewable Energy Video Project last month. The group had expressed a desire to take on this type of project in order to educate their peers and even members of the community about the importance of renewable energy, including information about San Miguel Power Association's Totally Green Program and how to sign up. Check it out at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DK8bAIngsvbiLg1qGnCoc3lfmLwFjbuL/view>.



MUNICODE UPDATE

In late 2020, the Town entered into an agreement with a company called Municode for codification services and for online hosting of the Municipal Code. The Ridgway Municipal Code will soon migrate to Municode’s fully responsive code hosting application featuring seamless navigation through our Code. Municode will also handle supplementation and will update our online Code upon the adoption of ordinances. Staff is in the final stretch of reviewing the Municipal Code as it is being transitioned to Municode’s code hosting application.

2021 RIDE THE ROCKIES

We have learned that the 2021 Ride the Rockies (RTR) event is moving forward and will take place from June 13th through June 18th. Ridgway will serve as a host community and riders will be hosted at the Ouray County Fairgrounds and 4H Event Center.

Riders will make the trek to Ridgway from Norwood on Wednesday, June 16th (Day 4). On Thursday, June 17th (Day 5), riders will make the “Ridgway Loop”, a 50-mile loop that starts with a ride northward to Ridgway State Park. The route then merges onto US550 northbound before turning southwest at Colona. Riders will trek up CR1 and return to CO62. From there, they will summit Dallas Divide, turn around, and descend back to Ridgway. On Friday, June 18th (Day 6), riders will depart Ridgway for Durango.

Staff will be in touch with RTR reps over the next month in preparation for the days when riders will be in Ridgway.

RESULTS OF ANNUAL CLEAN UP DAY EVENT

We had another successful Clean Up Day event on April 24th! The event was well received by residents and we completely filled three large roll-offs. We even had a resident deliver their trash materials in a wheelbarrow instead of a vehicle (pictured)! A big thank you goes out to Bruin Waste for supplying the roll offs and for their assistance at the event. Alpine Bank did not provide an electronic recycling component to this event. They are hoping to host a stand-alone electronic recycling event later this summer.



CURBSIDE BRANCH COLLECTION SERVICE

The Town has rolled out its curbside branch collection service. It began on May 5th. Through September, collection will be conducted by Public Works staff on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The criteria for collection remain the same as prior years and are as follows:

- Branches between 1” and 4” in diameter and 8 ft. in length will be accepted.
- No willow branches, sage brush, yard clippings, twigs, noxious weeds, vegetation with thorns, dirt, trash, kitchen waste or anything contained in bags will be accepted.



- Branches must be placed in the front yard by the street, not the alley, before 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

This service is intended to facilitate small routine maintenance by homeowners. Professional arborist work, commercial properties, HOAs, and entire tree removals are not eligible for branch collection.

STREET GRADING OPERATIONS

Today, the Town will commence annual street grading operations and the process will continue through May 26th. The street grading will consist of using a street grader to restore the driving surface and drainage attributes to the Town’s unpaved streets. The process will also include the application of a dust suppressant agent, known as magnesium chloride, to the unpaved streets.



The full schedule is as follows:

2021 Street Grading Schedule

May 10	Solar Ranches – Chipeta Dr. and Tabernash Ln.
May 11	Solar Ranches – All of Sabeta Dr.
May 12	Liddell Dr., then move to Vista Terrace
May 13	Vista Terrace
May 14	Magnesium Chloride above streets
May 17	Lena St. and Clinton St.
May 18	Hyde St. and Laura St.
May 19	Cora St. and Moffat St.
May 20	Charles St. and Frederick St.
May 21	Elizabeth St. and Charlotte St.
May 24	S. Amelia St.
May 25	Mary St. and N. Amelia St.
May 26	Magnesium Chloride above streets

Motorists are asked to exercise extreme caution when driving in the area of a grading operation. Residents are asked to have vehicles removed from streets that are scheduled to be graded by 6:00 a.m. The Town of Ridgway greatly appreciates your patience!



STREET SWEEPER HAS ARRIVED

Last month, the Town Council authorized the purchase of a 2012 Challenger/Elgin Badger Sweeper (street sweeper). The purchase has been made and the equipment has arrived. Last week, Mike Jenkins used it to clear Town streets of gravel and other debris.



PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

After the Town solicited letters of interest for the vacancy on Planning Commission, Mayor Clark appointed Ridgway resident Michelle Montage to fill the open seat. She will serve on the Commission until November 1, 2023. Her first Planning Commission meeting took place on April 27th.

PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS) Committee met on May 4th. During that meeting, Dave and Judi Jones were nominated and appointed, by motion and vote, to serve on the PTOS Committee.

PARKS AND TRAILS MAP UPDATE

The *Town of Ridgway 2021 Strategic Plan* contains a strategy to update the Town's Parks and Trails Map. The Map needs to be updated to include additional parks, trails and amenities and it also needs to be updated in a way that meets our established brand elements. We have solicited quotes from various design firms and recently selected a firm to undertake the project. That firm is Slate Communications out of Fort Collins, CO. Slate developed a survey to solicit feedback that will inform the design. Members of the PTOS Committee recently participated in the survey. The PTOS Committee discussed this project last week and it became apparent that clarity is needed on what is driving this project and how the map will be used. Once clarity is received from Council, staff will work with Slate to move this project forward.

COMMUNITY WEED PULL DAY

Julie Kolb with Ouray County Vegetation Management has organized a Community Weed Pull Day that will take place on Saturday, May 22nd from 9a to noon at Rollans Park. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, either because you love pulling weeds, simply want to volunteer some time or because you're in need of some formal community service hours, this is a perfect opportunity! For more information, please contact Julie at jkolb@ouraycountyco.gov or 970-626-9775, Ext. 7.



MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

The Marshal's Office has been busy with training in order to meet annual Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) perishable skills requirements. With the help of Ouray County Sheriff's Office and Ouray Police Department, we have completed Driving, Defensive Tactics, Taser, and Firearms. As budgeted for in the FY2021 Budget, we have purchased new firearms and now have them in service. In addition, we purchased three new and one refurbished automated external defibrillators (AEDs) so that each patrol vehicle will be equipped with one. Marshal Schmalz attended a records management class and will be working with staff to develop and implement a policy for records retention and public release. So far this year, we are on par with 2020 call volume. At this time last year, we were 400 calls for service above where we were in 2019.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create Predevelopment

This project continues to inch closer to a financial closing. At the State level, Senate Bill 21-252 was just introduced and sponsored by bipartisan leadership to fund projects in creative districts, Main Streets, and commercial centers. The bill will be heard by the Transportation and Local Government Committee on May 18 with Tim Schultz and Margaret Hunt representing Colorado Creative Industries in testimony. Passage of this bill would allow Artspace to apply for additional fast-track funds from the State for the project since it is shovel-ready. At the Planning Commission meeting on April 27, an application for a Temporary Use Permit for construction staging was approved for the lot kitty corner to the Space to Create lot. The building permit has undergone the entirety of the plan review process and is now ready for issuance. [

Creative Main Street Community Engagement

Fifteen applications were received by the end of April from potential volunteers for the new Creative Main Street group, including four from current Creative Advocacy Team members. The applications represent a varied mix of business and building owners, Creatives, nonprofits, the Chamber, and citizens with varied and very applicable backgrounds. All have been invited to three meetings scheduled for this group with facilitator Sheryl Trent of hrQ, Inc., a consultant through Colorado Main Street technical assistance, to orient them to Creative Main Street, develop a vision for the group, and identify their tasks. The first two meetings will be May 11th and 18th. Once volunteers make informed commitments to the group, a list of members will be



submitted to Town Council for formal approval, along with a request to officially establish this group as a standing committee replacing the RCD Creative Advocacy Team.

First Fridays

Brenda Ratcliff has been spearheading preparations for First Fridays, and the businesses she's spoken with are excited to see the event re-start on Friday, June 4th!

Honoring Historic Preservation Month

Colorado Main Street has organized a campaign during the month of May encouraging the public to submit their favorite Main Street historic buildings, local businesses, and public spaces to this simple survey, which also allows for photo uploads: <https://form.jotform.com/210745275207049> #CoMainStreet. Ridgway is participating in this, and information is being publicized via social media, press release, and emails. One outcome will be a new state map of Main Street communities showing the places locals and visitors value. Please participate in this fun opportunity yourself, and share with your contacts!

Conferences

Mayor Clark, volunteer Brenda Ratcliff, and Diedra Silbert attended the virtual national Main Street Now conference with a plethora of fabulous information from nationally known speakers related to pandemic recovery efforts, entrepreneurship, rural placemaking, and methods for assisting small businesses. If anyone else is interested in registering, even though the live event is complete, this is still possible with one year to watch online sessions. Contact Diedra by the end of May if you're interested in this. (The Town has a scholarship grant from Colorado Main Street to pay for registrations.)

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **First Meeting of the Ridgway Creative Main Street Group** – May 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – May 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Town staff and Council members will meet in person at the Ridgway Community Center. Members of the public may attend via Zoom.
- **Second Meeting of the Ridgway Creative Main Street Group** – May 18, 2021, Time and Setting TBD
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – May 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Community Weed Pull Day** – May 22, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Rollans Park



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- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – May 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Third Meeting of the Ridgway Creative Main Street Group** – June 8, 2021, Time and Setting TBD
- **Fourth Meeting of the Visitor Center-Heritage Park Ad Hoc Advisory Committee** – TBD

JOKE OF THE DAY

I was going to tell a time-traveling joke, but y'all didn't like it.