



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: June 14, 2021
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

2021 RIDE THE ROCKIES

Ride the Rockies is underway and comes to Ridgway in a few days! 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.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Town of Ridgway 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report is now available for the public to view. Check it out by clicking [HERE](#).

VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

At the May 12th meeting of the Ridgway Town Council, the Town Council voted to promulgate Voluntary Water Restrictions in Ridgway. According to the U.S. Drought Portal, accessible at www.drought.gov, areas in southwestern Colorado, and particularly Ouray County, are experiencing either severe or extreme drought conditions. The Town Council has continually expressed a desire to conserve water in times of need to ensure effective and safe delivery of water to the Ridgway community during all times, including in times of restricted or limited water supply and drought. The following Voluntary Water Restrictions, as described in the Town's [Water Conservation and Management Plan](#), shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further order of the Town Council:

- No irrigating between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., or when windy, in order to minimize evaporation, and anytime on Mondays.
- Properties located on the SOUTH side of Hwy 62 and Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Properties located on the NORTH side of Hwy 62 and Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.



Please note that these voluntary restrictions do not apply to drip systems and use of hand watering containers.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT

The Town has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified and experienced firm to prepare a Water Supply Assessment. The Town is looking for a comprehensive assessment of the Town’s current water rights portfolio and water supplies to determine whether the Town’s total projected water supplies available during normal, single dry, and multiple dry water years during a 30-year projection will meet the projected water demand of future growth and changes in usages within the Town’s service area. For more information, click [HERE](#).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RIVER CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT

The Town has issued an RFP seeking a qualified and experienced consultant to prepare a River Corridor Assessment. The impetus for the Assessment comes from frequent in-channel maintenance to maintain the current river course in Rollans Park. This work generates concern from the public regarding sedimentation and potential water quality impacts. The work also creates issues for Ridgway such as excess staff time, inconsistent results, and a lack of long-term strategy for the river course in Rollans Park. The Town desires to retain a consultant to characterize river function, ecosystem health, and channel stability within the river corridor in and near Ridgway. For more information, click [HERE](#).

HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Clarke & Co. is close to wrapping up the Heritage Park Improvements Project! Below are some photos that were taken this morning.





TEMPORARY AMENDMENTS TO SIGN REGULATIONS

Last week, the Town Council voted to extend temporary amendments to the Town’s Sign Regulations by way of [Emergency Ordinance No. 05-2021](#). Certain signage requirements for lawfully operating businesses continue to be relaxed until August 31st. Normally a business must apply for a sign permit before installing a portable sign within the Town right-of-way. In recognition of the difficult business environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic and orders related to business operations, the extension continues to waive the need for a sign permit application for a portable sign on Town right-of-way to be submitted to the Town with applicable fee and be reviewed and approved by Town staff.

CDOT ANNUAL MEETING

Representatives from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) recently held an annual meeting where they gave a Region 5 Program Update to jurisdictions that fall within Region 5. CDOT Region 5 covers southwest and south-central Colorado, including the Town of Ridgway. They are responsible for operating and maintaining infrastructure in a challenging mountainous environment. Click [HERE](#) to check out a list of recently completed projects in our region. Click [HERE](#) to check out the annual meeting handout that goes over CDOT accomplishments, responsibilities, funding and contact information.

TOWN CODE MIGRATION COMPLETE

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 has now migrated to Municode’s fully responsive code hosting application featuring seamless navigation through our Code. Click [HERE](#) to check it out. Municode now handles supplementation and will update our online Code upon the adoption of ordinances.

WATER TREATMENT PLAN GENERATOR PAD

Last year, the Town purchased a generator that will power the Town’s Water Treatment Plant in the event of a power outage that affects the Plant. The generator is slated to be delivered later this week and it weighs over 11,000 pounds. [A shoutout goes out to Jeff Rivera for his work spearheading the construction of the specialized cement pad for the generator to be placed on.](#) It was quite the project.



UWP MEET YOUR WATERSHED CONVERSATION SERIES

The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership has scheduled a variety of water-related professionals to discuss their organizations’ roles in the watershed, especially in the Ouray County area. The next event will take place on June 23rd at 5:00p in Dennis Weaver Park. The theme will be “drinking water and wastewater.” Chris Bolane, Ridgway ORC, will be one of the guest speakers! For more information about these events, visit <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/meet-your-watershed/>.



HB21-1162 – MANAGEMENT OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS

HB21-1162 was recently passed and is now awaiting the Governor's signature. If signed, single-use plastic bags will be banned at most stores, and restaurants will be banned from using polystyrene food service containers starting in 2024. Customers will have to pay 10 cents per paper or plastic bag beginning in 2023 until the ban goes into effect, but retailers will continue charging for paper bags after that date.

The bill would also make Colorado the first state to repeal its preemption law, a type of policy banning municipalities from creating their own, stricter plastic packaging ordinances by July 2023.

CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

The American Rescue Plan is delivering \$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, have been sent information on how to submit for their respective allocations. Ridgway's total allocation is \$261,152.40, which will be delivered in two tranches. The first tranche will deliver \$130,576.20. The second tranche will come no sooner than 12 months.

CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Treasurer:

Ridgway Concert Series

The Concert Series is organized and ready to be held July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. There will be five different genres for each show - blues, reggae, rock, bluegrass and horns. We will be following the same structure as in previous years, and the Sherbino will be handling the alcohol sales.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create Predevelopment

Stryker & Co., the general contractor, has mobilized equipment on the Space to Create lot and is beginning work on ground preparation. Nearby neighbors were alerted that the dust might increase shortly before work started on June 1st. Boettcher Foundation stepped up to provide temporary bridge funding to Artspace to move the financial closing forward. At the State level, Senate Bill 21-252 was passed by both chambers and has been sent to Governor Polis for signature. Assuming the bill is signed, an application process should quickly follow to request \$1-2M in permanent funding to cover Boettcher's temporary funding for the project.

Creative Main Street Community Engagement

The first two meetings of this new citizen group took place on May 11th and 18th. A third took place on June 8th. All were facilitated by a consultant provided through Colorado Main Street technical assistance. The group is receiving orientation to Town plans and processes and envisioning its role relative to downtown businesses, building owners, nonprofits, and citizens. The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce is represented in this group. At Council's July meeting, new members will be recommended for formal approval, along with a request to officially establish this group as a standing committee to replace the Ridgway Creative District (RCD) Creative Advocacy Team and merge RCD and Main Street citizen engagement efforts.

First Fridays

A huge thank you goes out to Brenda Ratcliff for her initiative and leadership in getting First Fridays happening again, which started on Friday, June 4th and are scheduled for the first Friday of July, August and September as well. She was assisted by Joan Chismire, Michi Countryman, David Nunn, and Jill McCord in the handling of communications, outreach, set-up, and plans for a game similar to a scavenger hunt to encourage people to visit more businesses.

Heritage Park/Visitor Center Improvements

The fourth meeting of the Visitor Center - Heritage Park Advisory Committee to review an implementation plan will take place on June 23rd. Recommendations from this committee will be brought to Town Council at its July meeting. Irrigation and landscaping improvements are underway and looking good! A \$2,000 grant (no match required) from Colorado Creative Industries was approved this month that will combine with the \$30,000 mini-grant from Colorado Main Street to assist in covering costs of these improvements.

Fete de la Musique Event

The remaining members of the RCD C.A.T. agreed to sponsor this new community event at the \$500 level, as it will bring in music and contribute to the downtown vibrancy that both RCD and the new Creative Main Street have prioritized.



Honoring Historic Preservation Month and Celebrating Main Streets

This May campaign, organized by Colorado Main Street, netted 36 survey responses from Ridgway with photos of historic buildings, local businesses and public spaces. A storytelling map will be created from the approximately survey responses received from Main Streets across the state, in conjunction with each community.

Ride the Rockies 2021

Ride the Rockies will be stopping in Ridgway June 16 -18, staying at the Ouray County Events Center. This stay was organized by Ride the Rockies staff, not the community, and it will bring about 2,000 riders and staff into the town.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Fourth Meeting of the Visitor Center-Heritage Park Ad Hoc Advisory Committee** – June 23, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. | Location TBD
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – June 29, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – July 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – July 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall and via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

My dog used to chase people on a bike.

It got so bad, I had to take her bike away.