



## WRITTEN REPORT

**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** July 13, 2021  
**RE:** **Town Manager's Report**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE PROJECT UPDATE**

The construction process has begun! The Town is hosting virtual bi-weekly project update meetings on the Ridgway Space to Create Project. The next meeting will take place on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Reps from Stryker & Company, the contractor for the project, will attend each meeting to provide the updates and answer questions. The recurring Zoom meeting information can be found below. To read the blog tracking these public meetings during the construction process, visit <https://ridgways2c.blogspot.com/>. For more background information on this project, visit <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/i-want-to/space-to-create-ridgway>.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81166252778?pwd=VEIvVWZOYllwSXY5ajRBZzhralY2UT09>

*Meeting ID: 811 6625 2778*

*Passcode: 778450*

*Dial by your location*

*+1 346 248 7799 US*

*+1 312 626 6799 US*

### **LEGISLATION WITH MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

Following the conclusion of the 2021 Legislative Session, the CML Advocacy Team has summarized legislation that municipalities need to know about immediately. Check it out by clicking [HERE](#).

### **MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN RIDGWAY, ALONGSIDE STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Mayor John Clark promulgated mandatory water restrictions within the Town of Ridgway, effective immediately. The restrictions shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further order of the Town Council.

According to the [U.S. Drought Portal](#), areas in southwestern Colorado, and particularly Ouray County, are experiencing either severe, extreme, or exceptional 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 Mandatory 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 & Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Properties located on the NORTH side of Hwy 62 & Hunter Parkway – irrigate only on Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Town Parks irrigation limited to the minimum needed to keep grass alive.

Also occurring on June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Town Manager formally promulgated emergency restrictions on burning and fires within the Town and the restrictions shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further order of the Town Council. The following activities are currently prohibited in the Town of Ridgway:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire except in designated and signed campgrounds or developed recreation sites with provided fire grates;
- Open burning of any kind including burning of trash or debris, burning of ditches, open charcoal or wood fires;
- Fireworks or the use of explosives;
- Smoking on public property, except in an enclosed vehicle or building;
- Disposal of any cigarette anywhere outdoors;
- Operating any chainsaw, except with a fire extinguisher and shovel kept within immediate reach;
- Welding or use of torch with open flame, unless inside an enclosed structure and as an allowable use in the zoning district.
- Other activities determined to be of high risk in creating a wildfire and potential for loss of life or significant damage to personal property.



### **WATER TREATMENT PLANT GENERATOR**

The generator has arrived! 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. Early last month, staff prepared a specialized cement pad for the generator to be placed on. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the generator was delivered and installed on the pad. It weighs over 11,000 pounds. In the next couple of weeks, the electrical work will take place to bring the unit online. Then, staff will need to meet with Cummins reps to learn how to operate and appropriately maintain the unit.



### **CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS UPDATE**

As reported last month, Ridgway’s total allocation is \$261,152.40. A few weeks ago, we completed the certification process and received the first tranche of \$130,576.20, which has been set aside for now. The second tranche will come no sooner than 12 months.

As a recipient of a State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) award, we may use SLFRF funds to cover eligible costs that our organization incurred during the period that begins on March 3, 2021 and ends on December 31, 2024, as long as the award funds for the obligations incurred by December 31, 2024 are expended by December 31, 2026. Costs for projects incurred by the recipient State, territorial, local, or Tribal government prior to March 3, 2021 are not eligible, as provided for in Treasury’s Interim Final Rule. Recipients may use SLFRF award funds to provide assistance to households, businesses, and individuals within the eligible use categories described in Treasury’s Interim Final Rule for costs that those households, businesses and individuals incurred prior to March 3, 2021. For example:

- a. **Public Health/Negative Economic Impacts**: Recipients may use SLFRF award funds to provide assistance to households – such as rent, mortgage, or utility assistance – for costs incurred by the household prior to March 3, 2021, provided that the recipient State, territorial, local or Tribal government did not incur the cost of providing such assistance prior to March 3, 2021.
- b. **Premium Pay**: Recipients may provide premium pay retrospectively for work performed at any time since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Such premium pay must be “in addition to” wages and remuneration already received and the obligation to provide such pay must not have been incurred by the recipient prior to March 3, 2021.
- c. **Revenue Loss**: Treasury’s Interim Final Rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue. While calculation of lost revenue begins with the recipient’s revenue in the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency and includes the 12-month period ending



December 31, 2020, use of funds for government services must be forward looking for costs incurred by the recipient after March 3, 2021.

- d. Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband: Recipients may use SLFRF award funds to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband. Recipients may use SLFRF award funds to cover costs incurred for eligible projects planned or started prior to March 3, 2021, provided that the project costs covered by the SLFRF award funds were incurred after March 3, 2021.

Any funds not obligated or expended for eligible uses by the timelines above must be returned to Treasury.

**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](#).

**MARSHAL’S OFFICE UPDATE**

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

**Calls for Service**

The Marshal’s Office has been very busy the first couple weeks of July. Cases have included a Felony Menacing and an Overdue Party that, sadly, turned into a motorcycle accident fatality. Below are statistics depicting calls for service for the months of April through June during the previous three years.

*Self-Initiated Field Activity (e.g., directed patrols, security checks and foot patrols):*

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>April</b>	82	308	209
<b>May</b>	148	238	237
<b>June</b>	153	220	257

*Calls for Service (including everything from VIN inspections to assaults):*

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>April</b>	90	52	98
<b>May</b>	148	87	135
<b>June</b>	163	114	153



I believe we are now seeing the effects of the COVID-19 shutdown that we originally anticipated seeing in 2020. There is a noticeable increase in mental health issues, disturbances, and general disputes over traffic complaints and every day issues that we haven't seen in past years.

### **BUILDING OFFICIAL UPDATE**

From Mike Gill, Building Official:

#### **Habitat for Humanity Triplex Project**

After exhausting their volunteer workforce, the Habitat for Humanity's triplex is again moving forward and inching skyward. Two separate groups of youth volunteers from the organization AmeriCorps have provided the labor for the construction of the triplex thus far. The first group was involved in the framing of the first floor and their tenure was about four weeks. The second group worked on the project for approximately nine weeks. When they left, the framing of the second floor and walls were completed. The project then hit a lull. The rising costs and nonavailability of an adequate skilled labor force brought the project to a halt. Until recently, Habitat was unable to procure a framing contractor that could take on the complicated roof structure. Hadden Enterprises LLC found enough of a window in their busy work schedule to set the trusses and sheath the roof. Their ultimate goal is to complete the roof dry-in, complete the exterior building wrap and install the windows and exterior doors. That would leave the building protected from the elements and allow for the various subcontractors to begin their rough-in work. With much work remaining but a major milestone behind them soon, Habitat can look forward to renewed activity at the N. Laura location.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

#### **Ridgway Space to Create Construction**

Ground preparation and foundation-related construction work has moved forward on the Space to Create (S2C) lot. Stryker & Co., the general contractor, and Town staff started biweekly public meetings on June 30, to take place virtually on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:15p. Information was posted about these meetings to the Town website's homepage, the S2C page, and the S2C Facebook page. A blog has been established on the S2C webpage for S2C Construction Updates and notes from the biweekly meetings (<https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/i-want-to/space-to-create-ridgway>). At the State level, on June 16<sup>th</sup>, the Governor signed Senate Bill 21-252 after it passed in the legislature. A huge thank you goes to Margaret Hunt from Colorado Creative Industries (CCI), Tim Schultz, advisory board chair for CCI, Chantal Unfug from DoLA Division of Local Government, and many legislators for their active efforts in support of this legislation! Artspace and the Town await the opportunity to apply for additional CCI/DoLA funding for this project to round out the more than \$10M in permanent funding that will be needed to complete it. Artspace staff visited Ridgway on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and plan to visit Ridgway each month going forward.



### **Creative Main Street Community Engagement**

A third organizational meeting took place on June 8<sup>th</sup> to orient 14 citizens to the new Creative Main Street Group, again facilitated by a consultant provided through Colorado Main Street technical assistance. At its July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the terms of volunteer commitment to the effort were discussed with those in attendance agreeing to commit. A recommendation will be made requesting their official appointments to the Group at the August Town Council meeting. This Group will meet regularly on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### **Ridgway First Fridays**

Two First Friday events have been held, orchestrated by volunteer Brenda Ratcliff and several others from the Creative Main Street Group. These events have not appeared as busy as previous years, though restaurants and other venues look full. The Group is working on additional promotional ideas.

### **Heritage Park/Visitor Center Improvements**

The fourth and final meeting of the Visitor Center - Heritage Park Advisory Committee took place on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, facilitated by Melissa Antol, a consultant provided through Colorado Main Street technical assistance. The committee's recommendations and a proposed implementation plan are on this month's Town Council agenda. Irrigation and landscaping improvements per contract with Clarke & Co., Inc. were completed, and this downtown gateway site already has begun to look more appealing than in recent years. The Town is grateful to Colorado Main Street for the Main Street mini-grant which covered partial costs of this year's improvements.

### **Colorado Main Street Open for Business Grant**

Colorado Main Street also received funding through SB252, and an application process is anticipated soon to offer funds to municipalities for façade and energy efficiency improvements of private downtown buildings. Heritage Energy Pilot Projects, such as the historic bank building, will be encouraged to apply for these funds, but the funds are not limited to those selected projects.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Planning Commission Special Meeting** – July 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – July 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Ridgway Concert** – July 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Hartwell Park



- **Ridgway Concert** – July 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Hartwell Park
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – July 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Bi-Weekly Space to Create Project Update Meetings with Stryker & Company** – Every other Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom (next meeting is July 28<sup>th</sup>)
- **Ridgway Concert** – July 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Hartwell Park
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – August 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

**JOKE OF THE DAY**

I recently took a pole.

And found that 100% of the people in the tent were angry when it collapsed.