



## WRITTEN REPORT

**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** August 9, 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.

### **SAVE THE DATE: RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE CELEBRATION!**

Artspace and the Town are planning to hold a celebratory event for the Ridgway Space to Create Project on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The event start time and other logistics are still being worked out and will be communicated once finalized.

### **RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE PROJECT UPDATE MEETINGS WITH STRYKER & COMPANY**

The Town is hosting virtual bi-weekly project update meetings on the Ridgway Space to Create Project. The next meeting will take place on August 12<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=VElvVWZOYllwSXY5ajRBZzhralY2UT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6625 2778

Passcode: 778450

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 312 626 6799 US

### **BUSTANG OUTRIDER UPDATE**

Town staff worked with Bustang Outrider reps to transition the bus stop location in Ridgway from the Visitor Center/Heritage Park/Fairgrounds parking lot to an area on Palomino Trail in front of Family Dollar. This new bus stop location went into effect on August 1<sup>st</sup> and now serves as Ridgway's stop on the *Durango – Grand Junction* route, as well as the new *Telluride – Grand Junction* route, which is slated to start very soon. Bustang expressed a variety of safety concerns related to the old bus stop location. They are pleased with the smaller amount of traffic flow on Palomino Trail and to now be utilizing the traffic light at Hwy 62 and Hwy 550.



## **SMPA RED MOUNTAIN ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY AND BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

In order to achieve the major objectives of the subject project, Hwy 550 was slated to experience significant road closures August 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. Last week, SMPA announced that all road closure dates in August have been canceled due to aerial resource availability. September dates posted at <https://www.smpa.com/content/red-mountain-electrical-reliability-and-broadband-improvement-project> are still scheduled. Additional dates related to road closure in September and October are possible. Stay tuned.

## **RIDGWAY CONCERT SERIES**

The Town held another successful concert series last month! Pam Kraft, our town clerk/treasurer, deserves a huge shout out and thank you for all her efforts organizing the concert series. There are number of other people, organizations, vendors, artists, and sponsors to thank for their work and contributions to the series, including but not limited to, the Ridgway Chautauqua Society, Rob Miller, Mayor John Clark, Steven Schroeder, Emme Brown, Bobby Barnes and David Wade. Well done, everyone!

## **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

The Ridgway Marshal's Office hosted a National Night Out (NNO) event in Hartwell Park on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. A number of residents and first responders attended and enjoyed free food. Dan Easton with Steps Tavern and Ridgway Mountain Market deserve a big thanks for donating all the food for the event! Also, a thank you goes out to the Ridgway Fire Protection District for letting us borrow their grill.

## **OURAY COUNTY PRIDE CELEBRATION**

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, a Ouray County Pride Celebration in support of the LGBTQIA2S+ community was held in Hartwell Park. Pictured at right is Marshal Schmalz, with one of the organizers of the event, raising a pride flag in front of Town Hall in honor of the celebration.



## **NATIONAL GUARD PROCLAMATION**

The Board of County Commissioners proclaimed August 3<sup>rd</sup> as “A Day of Appreciation, Thankfulness, and Respect” for the National Guard members who were deployed to Ouray County to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic. All of the Colorado National Guard members who assisted Ouray County were professional, trustworthy and dependable. They were eager and ready to help at a moment’s notice. They stepped up during a tumultuous time and never complained. Ridgway joins Ouray County in recognizing those National Guard members for their assistance and thanks them for their service! Click [HERE](#) to check out the official proclamation.



### **OURAY RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**

In June 2021, the Ouray Recreation and Conservation Alliance (ORCA) was awarded a \$60,000 grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Grand Outdoors Colorado.

ORCA will collaborate to dramatically expand land, water and wildlife conservation as well as advance their shared goals of outdoor recreation, natural resource management, priority setting, and planning for our surrounding areas. The necessity of managing visitors and maintaining infrastructure to provide a positive outdoor experience while limiting resource impacts, has been identified as a top priority. ORCA strives to strengthen public and private relationships and collaborate in their efforts to connect more people to on-the-ground activities, enhancing habitat restoration and conservation.

ORCA is comprised of regional partners, including Ouray County, the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, Gunnison County, Hinsdale County, Ridgway State Park, the Ouray Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, the Bureau of Land Management, the Uncompahgre Field Office, and the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership.

The official ORCA kickoff event is currently scheduled for the evening of Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **OURAY COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SHORT TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT**

In late July, Ouray County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) related to short term rental (STR) enforcement, as they are seeking a firm to assist its Land Use Department in monitoring and enforcing STRs in the unincorporated area of Ouray County pursuant to Ouray County Ordinance 2018-003. The County is seeking quotes for the following three scenarios: 1) Reporting Only, 2) Monitoring and Enforcement, and 3) Full suite of services including enforcement actions. Ouray County has invited the Town of Ridgway and City of Ouray to also consider STR enforcement services. Connie Hunt, Ouray County Administrator, reached out to both the Town and City for permission to invite additional, but separate, proposals for the same services within the Town of Ridgway, as well as the City of Ouray. Both the Town and City agreed to participate in the RFP as it's simply an opportunity to understand what the costs would be for a third party to assist in monitoring and enforcing our STR regulations. The full RFP can be viewed [HERE](#). The submittal deadline is August 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **BUILDING OFFICIAL UPDATE**

From Mike Gill, Building Official:

#### **Centennial Building**

The Centennial Building (next to Kate's Place) has a new owner. They have applied for a building permit in order to make some long overdue changes and upgrades. Chief amongst those will be



an exterior paint job. Man, talk about spiffing up the neighborhood. The permit will cover new front decks and railings along with a reconstruction of the exterior stairway on the west side of the building. Should be a noticeable and welcome change. Rumor has it that the company doing the work has invested heavily in hornet spray.

### **Space to Create**

Progress on the Space to Create building has been hindered by the recent monsoonal rainstorms. With a foreseeable window of drier weather, the project should begin to come out of the ground, thanks in large part to the efforts of local concrete contractor Stella Concrete.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

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

In the latter half of July, Artspace submitted the pre-application and then the full application for \$2M in funding from the Colorado Creative Industries Community Revitalization Grant 2021, with input from Town staff. These funds, if awarded, will complete the permanent funding necessary for the project. A tentative date of September 9<sup>th</sup>, midday, has been scheduled for a local celebration of Space to Create having moved into the next phase of development! The construction process continued in July with the installation of more than 100 geopiers as part of the foundation structure to stabilize and strengthen the soils on the lot. Public biweekly construction update meetings continue to assist staff and citizens in understanding the work that Stryker & Co. are doing on the lot. A blog with a synopsis of each meeting can be found here: <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/i-want-to/space-to-create-ridgway>.

#### **Ridgway First Fridays**

First Friday events have been held, with only one more left for September 3<sup>rd</sup>. New First Friday signs were purchased to post during the event and hopefully draw in some traffic. Creative Main Street volunteers are stepping into their new roles as they learn more about what's needed.

#### **Ridgway Roundup**

Ridgway Old West Fest requested that Creative Main Street offer something similar to a First Friday on the Friday evening of their event weekend, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The group agreed to organize this, after checking in with a number of businesses about their interest in participating. A quick call to musicians will be publicized, and the evening will be called Ridgway Roundup in honor of the Old West theme.

#### **Heritage Energy Pilot Project**

Colorado Main Street set aside funds from the Main Street Open for Business Grant specifically for the three buildings selected statewide for the Heritage Energy Pilot Project. The historic Bank Building was one of those selected and its team is working with Town staff to apply for the



\$250,000 for façade and energy efficiency improvements on that building. The work will need to be completed by June 30, 2022.

### **Reporting**

The Annual Values Report for Ridgway Creative District was submitted to Colorado Creative Industries August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This report tracks quantitative and qualitative data from a variety of sources to assist in understanding the impact of the district on the community. The hit from the pandemic was obvious in lower participation numbers reported for last fiscal year. The Colorado Main Street second quarter report was also submitted in July. That report documents progress made on Creative Main Street work plan objectives for the time period. Anyone who would like to review these documents can request digital copies from Diedra Silbert.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – August 11, 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 has been changed to Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Click [HERE](#) to check out the full schedule.)
- **2021 Ridgway River Festival** – August 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Rollans Park
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – August 31, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – September 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – September 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Ridgway Space to Create Celebration!** – September 9, 2021

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

From Mike Jenkins, Utilities Maintenance Operator, Streets and Fleets:

Why did Snoop Dogg need an umbrella?

Fo' Drizzle!