



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: September 8, 2021
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

RIDGWAY SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR 2021-2022 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Town is now accepting applications from area youth for appointment to the 2021-2022 Town of Ridgway Youth Advisory Council. The Town is seeking five high school youth to fill the available positions on the Youth Advisory Council. The Town Council aims to appoint members after candidates complete an application and interview with the Town Council during the October 13th Town Council meeting.

The application materials, which include application submittal requirements and eligibility criteria, are available [HERE](#). Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 1st.

COME CELEBRATE RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE!

Please join us as we revel in the progress and promise of Ridgway Space to Create!

The project will bring 30 units of workforce housing and 2,000 square feet of community space to Ridgway's downtown Main Street Creative District. Enjoy food, local entertainment, and hear from Mayor John Clark and other key partners as we toast to the future of Ridgway Space to Create.



This event takes place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Ridgway Space to Create location, 675 Clinton St. The formal celebration will commence at 6:30 p.m. with remarks from project partners. A toast (and merriment!) to immediately follow.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP by clicking [HERE](#).



Questions? Contact Haley Cramer, Property Manager at haley.cramer@artspace.org

RIDGWAY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT THE VISITOR CENTER AND HERITAGE PARK

On September 14th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting A *Ridgway Business After Hours at the Ridgway Visitor Center and Heritage Park* event where the business community is invited to check out the changes that have been made to the gateway to Ridgway at Highways 550 and 62 and learn about future plans. The address is 150 Racecourse Rd. The event is also an opportunity for networking and celebrating the efforts of the Visitor Center volunteer staff who provided information to visitors all summer. For more info, click [HERE](#).

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 September 22nd 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

FLOOD MAPPING STUDY

The Colorado Conservation Board has been partnering with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to bring updated flood risk information to the State of Colorado. As part of the original state-funded Colorado Hazard Mapping Project scope, Ouray County has been transitioned to a FEMA Risk MAP county-wide study, impacting the communities of Ridgway, Ouray, and unincorporated areas of the county. Ouray County currently uses paper FIRM maps that were effective in 1985. Once this study is complete, Ouray County will be updated to digital mapping with updated special flood hazard areas for all effective streams. In total, 30 miles of detailed (Zone AE) and 31 miles of approximate (Zone A) are being studied. The study is currently in the “Floodplain Mapping” portion of the schedule. A “Resilience” meeting is being scheduled for later this month, of which Ridgway will participate. The updated maps with updated special flood hazard areas, will not become effective until some time in 2023.



HWY 62 SPEEDING ISSUE

Town staff has heard a number of comments from residents about vehicles coming into Town from the west on Hwy 62 at speeds well above the posted speed limit. This is not a recent issue, as this is something the Town has grappled with for many years. Our deputies do their best to monitor speeds on Hwy 62/Sherman St., but they can't do targeted speed enforcement all day, every day. While the Marshal's Office continues to do the best they can, and a great job at that, staff has reached out to CDOT representatives to discuss their perspective on this issue and talk through potential speed mitigation tactics/devices that could be deployed. Staff is meeting with CDOT late next week and will follow up with outcomes from that meeting. Stay tuned.

STOP SIGNS DEPLOYED AT AMELIA ST./CHARLES ST. INTERSECTION

After a number of discussions with the Ridgway School District and area residents on speeding and safety concerns, the decision was made to make the Amelia St./Charles St. intersection a three-way intersection by installing two additional stop signs (one on either side of Amelia St.). The intersection is located a few feet to the north of the staircase that leads up to the Elementary School. School District staff have said that they intend to have the staircase moved to line up directly with the Amelia St. crosswalk on the north end of the subject intersection. Staff will monitor the area to see if additional adjustments/improvements to the right-of-way are needed.

SMPA RED MOUNTAIN ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY AND BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The backup power line that serves Ouray County and traverses Red Mountain Pass along US 550, needs to be re-built. SMPA is taking on the largest infrastructure improvement in the history of the cooperative in order to improve electrical reliability while extending a middle-mile broadband pathway.

CDOT has issued a permit to SMPA for the following Hwy 550 road closure schedule:

Monday - Thursday September 13 th - 16 th	CLOSED 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. OPEN 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CLOSED 1:00 to 5:30 p.m.	Friday September 17 th	CLOSED 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. OPEN 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CLOSED 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
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(Highway open on weekends.)

Mon - Fri September 20 th - 24 th	CLOSED 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. OPEN 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CLOSED 1:00 to 5:30 p.m.
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This schedule is subject to weather conditions, project variables or other emergency circumstances.

This schedule was developed with input from local community, business, emergency management, and county representation. Please plan your travel accordingly.



OURAY RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

The kick-off meeting of the OURAY RECREATION CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (ORCA) is scheduled for September 21st at 5:00 p.m. at Ridgway State Park's covered outdoor pavilion. Thanks to a \$60,000 grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado, ORCA is convening to build bridges across our jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries for wildlife and natural resource conservation along with the growing demand for recreation access. ORCA will collaborate to dramatically expand land, water and wildlife conservation and advance our shared goals of outdoor recreation, natural resource management, and planning for our surrounding areas. ORCA will collaboratively address emerging issues and safeguard areas identified as significant for conservation, working lands, and recreation access in alignment with Colorado's 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Urgent needs include:

- Developing strategies to provide sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, including trail networks;
- Proactive management of visitors and maintenance of infrastructure to provide positive outdoor recreation experiences while limiting resource impacts;
- Strengthening public-private relationships and collaborative efforts to connect more people to on-the-ground activities, habitat restoration and conservation; and
- Leveraging our limited local, state, and federal resources with creative public-private partnerships.

For more information, please contact ORCA at orca@ourayco.gov.

NEXT PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee will be on Monday, October 11th at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Ridgway Water Treatment Plant. Chris Bolane, the Town's Operator in Responsible Charge, will give Committee members a tour of the Water Treatment Plant, starting at 5:30 p.m. After the tour, the members will gather outside of the Plant to conduct remaining business. If anyone has an interest in participating on this tour, please email Preston at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create Construction and Celebration

Public biweekly construction update meetings continue to assist with 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>. The concrete "tower" now visible over the fence is not an elevator, as many in the community imagine, but one of the



stairways. The date for the Space to Create celebration was changed from the tentative date of Sept. 9th to a final date of Thursday, Sept. 23rd. (Mark your calendars!) Colorado Creative Industries expects to make its decision on the grant for which Artspace applied on Sept. 10th. The celebration will be broadly advertised publicly, and invitations specifically sent to about 500 people. Arrangements are being made to include music, art, speakers, food, and drink, in large part funded by a grant from the Tim Schultz Fund for Rural Colorado, housed at Western Colorado Community Foundation. Please thank Tim when he's here for the event!

Ridgway First Fridays

The final First Friday event for the season was held on Sept. 3rd. A huge thank you again this year to Brenda Ratcliff for being the primary organizer of First Fridays! Discussion will need to take place before next summer season about the continued value of these events which were significantly less of a locals' draw this year than in prior years.

Ridgway Roundup

The Creative Main Street Group has organized Ridgway Roundup in support of Ridgway Old West Fest on Friday, September 24th from 5-7p. Businesses have agreed to stay open late, and several musicians who responded to the Call to Musicians will play at various locations.

Heritage Energy Pilot Project

Town staff submitted a \$250,000 application to Colorado Main Street's Main Street Open for Business Grant in collaboration with the historic Bank Building team. This grant will be utilized, once awarded, for façade and energy efficiency improvements on that building's south and west exterior walls.

Ridgway Independent Film Fest

Submissions of short films are due October 1st for this two-evening festival to be held at the Sherbino, Nov. 12th and 13th. Volunteers organized a fundraising effort and raised over \$2,000 from local businesses to support cash prizes for the filmmakers of the winning films. Andy Nasisse went above and beyond to spearhead that effort.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – September 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Ridgway Business After Hours at the Visitor Center and Heritage Park** – September 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at Visitor Center/Heritage Park



- **Bi-Weekly Space to Create Project Update Meetings with Stryker & Company** – Every other Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom (*The September 8th meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 22nd. Click [HERE](#) to check out the full schedule.*)
- **Ouray Recreation & Conservation Alliance (ORCA) Kickoff Meeting** – September 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at Ridgway State Park (covered outdoor pavilion)
- **Ridgway Space to Create Celebration!** – September 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Ridgway Space to Create
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – September 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – October 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – October 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

A bunch of batteries were gathering around in a circle.

I guess they were having an AA-meeting.