



## WRITTEN REPORT

**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** November 10, 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.

### **DIEDRA SILBERT RETIRING**

Last month, Diedra Silbert, the Town's Community Initiatives Facilitator, informed staff and Council that she would be retiring by the end of 2021. While we are truly saddened to see her go, we are excited for the next phase of her journey! Diedra has been a fantastic representative of the Town of Ridgway since joining the Town in 2013. Her dedication, hard work and initiative are second to none and will be sorely missed.

Her work has included a number of duties and special projects, highlighted by the coordination of the Main Street and Creative District initiatives, administratively merged as Ridgway Creative Main Street. She has worked hard to further these initiatives and maintain the Town's status as a "Certified Creative District" and "Graduate" level Main Street community with the State of Colorado. Diedra was instrumental in getting the Ridgway Space to Create Project through the predevelopment phase and into the construction phase of the project, as evidenced by her participation in the process to seek Low Income Housing Tax Credit funding from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, which was awarded in May of 2020.

The preceding paragraph does not fully capture everything Diedra has been involved in and worked on. It was meant to illustrate her hard work and commitment to moving the Town forward in a positive way. Again, she will truly be missed by all!

### **ADOPT A HIGHWAY**

The Ridgway Town Council has now formally committed to picking up trash and litter along Hwy 62 from milepost 20 to 22 for a period of two years! The commitment is to pick up litter a minimum of two times each year. The contract with CDOT expires in November of 2023. All participating group members will have to attend a safety meeting in which all members will have to view the *Spruce Up Colorado Volunteer Safety Video* and *Meth Lab Waste Recognition Video* prior to any planned pick-ups. The next step is for Council to decide when the first pickup will be.



### **PEDIATRIC PFIZER COVID VACCINE CLINICS FOR AGES 5-11**

Mark your calendars for one of our Ouray County Public Health's upcoming Pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine clinics at their Public Health Office in Ouray, located at 302 2nd St, Ouray.

These clinics are for 5-11 year-olds.

Clinic dates are November 15<sup>th</sup>, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>, December 21<sup>st</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup>. To schedule an appointment, visit <https://ouraycountyco.gov/396/Coronavirus-COVID-19-Updates-and-Resourc>.

If you have questions or problems with the online enrollment, please call Ouray County Public Health at 970-325-4670.

### **CYBER SECURITY ASSESSMENT**

A few weeks ago, Town staff and Brian Redmon with Provelocity met with representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the first step in a cybersecurity assessment of the Town's Water Treatment Plant. The next step in the process is the development of an "action plan" to improve cyber incident preparation, response, and recovery. The EPA has already drafted an action plan for the Town to review based on the onsite cyber technical assistance assessment conducted on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Staff is in the process of arranging a time to meet with the EPA representatives to review the draft plan together and make revisions.

### **SAN MIGUEL & OURAY COUNTY REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The *San Miguel & Ouray County Regional Climate Action Plan* has been completed and sets the stage for the next decade of climate action across our region. The plan is the product of a full year of meeting discussions and input, and it's now ready for public dissemination and engagement. Click [HERE](#) to view the plan and supporting information.

### **UPDATE FROM THE COLORADO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION**

Colorado's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050, from 2005 levels. To help the state stay on track to meet these goals, they need to understand how greenhouse gas emissions are changing by using the most current information. At the same time, they need to ensure progress is made on climate equity. A dashboard, located [HERE](#), serves both of those needs. It will be updated quarterly.

The state is welcoming comments via an online comment form, located [HERE](#). The deadline for comments is December 1, 2021.

### **GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION UPDATE**

Staff attended the latest meeting of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region (GVTPR) on November 4<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, an update was given on the GVTPR 10 Year Plan and the status



of Region 5 and Region 3 transportation projects on that list. Overall, the Plan is ahead of schedule. At the end of the meeting, it was highlighted that at the next GVTPR meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>, there may be an opportunity to discuss adding new projects to the end of the 10 Year Plan. If the opportunity does arise, staff we'll be prepared to plug the idea of a roundabout on Hwy 62 at Railroad St., as directed by Council. Stay tuned.

### **SNOW REMOVAL**

Snow removal is a community effort that requires everyone's patience and cooperation. According to the Ridgway Municipal Code, private property owners are responsible for removing snow on sidewalks abutting their property. The Town will only remove snow from sidewalks abutting public property. On private property, it is the owner's responsibility to remove or store snow from their property. Placing private snow on public streets will result in code enforcement violations. In historic downtown, property owners may put snow from public sidewalks a few feet off the curb into the street. This prevents plow damage to curbs and sidewalks. The Town will haul this snow away when traffic allows.

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Senior Planner**

The Town of Ridgway is seeking to fill the position of **Senior Planner**. This is a full-time, exempt position with an excellent benefit package. Current benefits include health insurance, including dental and vision, and retirement benefits. The position is available to an individual to perform advanced professional level work in the field of current and long-range planning as well as development review. The successful candidate is expected to be self-motivated, dedicated, driven, experienced and knowledgeable in all topics related to land use planning for a local government. The successful candidate is also expected to have the ability to perform independently at a high level and work exceptionally well in a team and community-focused environment.

Details for the position, including salary and benefits, can be found on the Town of Ridgway's website at <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/>.

Interested candidates must submit a completed application, letter of interest, resume, and list of three references to the Ridgway Town Clerk's Office, located at 201 N. Railroad St., Ridgway, CO 81432. The materials may also be emailed to [kchristian@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:kchristian@town.ridgway.co.us).

Application packages will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021.

#### **Community Initiatives Facilitator**

The Town of Ridgway is seeking to fill the position of **Community Initiatives Facilitator**. This is a part-time, non-exempt position with limited benefits. The position is available to an individual to work 32 hours per week performing a variety of professional and administrative duties related



to planning, organizing, directing, and facilitating various initiatives, programs, projects and opportunities that bring the community together and nurture the local economy. The successful candidate will manage and coordinate the Main Street and Creative District initiatives, administratively merged as Ridgway Creative Main Street. This initiative engages the community in preserving Ridgway's authenticity, creativity and heritage, while advancing its vibrancy. The successful candidate is expected to have the ability to perform independently at a high level and work exceptionally well in a team and community-focused environment.

Details for the position, including hourly wage and benefits, can be found on the Town of Ridgway's website at <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/>.

Interested candidates must submit a completed application, letter of interest, resume, and list of three references to the Ridgway Town Clerk's Office, located at 201 N. Railroad St., Ridgway, CO 81432. The materials may also be emailed to [kchristian@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:kchristian@town.ridgway.co.us).

Application packages will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

#### **UPDATE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES GRANT PROGRAM**

HB21-1271 created three new programs to offer grant money and other forms of state assistance to local governments to promote innovative solutions to the development of affordable housing across the state. The Affordable Housing Development Incentives Grant Program provides grants to local governments to develop one or more affordable housing developments in their community that are livable, vibrant, and driven by community benefits. These incentive grants can help cover tap fees, infrastructure, parks/playgrounds and other needs and amenities that support the affordable housing project. Local governments are encouraged to pick one or two shovel-ready projects that can spend all of the funds by June 2024 and provide gap funding. Projects must provide community benefits (e.g., covering tap fees or infrastructure costs for an affordable housing project and/or with a childcare center, for example). A small portion can be used for needs and amenities in the neighborhood where the affordable housing development is located. To qualify, local governments must adopt at least three strategies from the menu of policy and regulatory options listed in the program guidelines.

Staff has completed and submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) form for the first application round of the Affordable Housing Development Incentives Grant Program specific to the Telluride Foundation's proposed Rural Homes development. It was submitted on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

DOLA is in the process of arranging pre-application meetings with the 26 communities that submitted an LOI. Meetings are expected to take place during the second half of November and through December.

Stay tuned!



### **MONTHLY SPACE TO CREATE PROJECT UPDATE WITH STRYKER & COMPANY**

Each month, the Town hosts a virtual project update meeting on the Ridgway Space to Create Project. The next meeting will take place on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Reps from Stryker & Company, the contractor for the project, 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=VElvVWZOYllwSXl5ajRBZzhralY2UT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6625 2778

Passcode: 778450

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 312 626 6799 US

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

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

Construction continues. A redesign of the stormwater system that runs to the intersection of Cora St. and Charles St. is underway and will hopefully be finalized soon.

An accurate and well-reported radio story ran on KVNF on November 2<sup>nd</sup> about Ridgway Space to Create: <https://www.kvnf.org/post/space-create-colorado-builds-ouray-countys-first-affordable-housing-project>.

Public construction update meetings continue to assist with understanding the work that Stryker & Co. are doing on the lot. The next virtual meeting will be December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30p. A blog with a synopsis of each meeting can be found here: <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/i-want-to/space-to-create-ridgway>.

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

Work on the Bank Building has been given the go-ahead by History Colorado. Because the weather has cooled down and mortar needs warmth to set, the project will proceed, when possible, with work on windows and doors on the south and west walls of the building.

#### **Ridgway Independent Film Fest**

Twenty-seven short films were selected to show at the two-evening festival to be held in-person at the Sherbino, November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Each evening will show different films. The five judges



personally picked a film to award, three from the U.S., one from Iran, and one from the U.K. It's been an incredible year already of successes for the seventh year of this festival, including the ability to give cash awards because of the effort of volunteers and the generosity of local business donors. The Sherbino has new protocols related to proof of vaccination being required for entry which will apply to this festival. Keeping our fingers crossed for a great turnout, while knowing the pandemic is still having an impact!

**Creative Main Street Group**

At its October meeting, the Group elected Arielle Bielak as the Chairperson and Jill McCord as Vice-Chair beginning in January. Staff has been serving in those roles since the Group began last spring, and community leadership is now stepping up (just in time for Diedra Silbert's departure). Mayor John Clark and Arielle Bielak traveled to Steamboat Springs for the annual State Creative Districts Convening and Colorado Creative Industries Summit. They will be reporting on their experiences at the Creative Main Street Group retreat on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Diedra Silbert also participated in the virtual Main Street Managers Summit in the first week of November.

**MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE**

From Shane Schmalz, Marshal:

I did a comparison of the stats for July, August, and September 2019, 2020, and 2021 (see below).

	<u>July 2019</u>	<u>August 2019</u>	<u>September 2019</u>	<u>July 2020</u>	<u>August 2020</u>	<u>September 2020</u>	<u>July 2021</u>	<u>August 2021</u>	<u>September 2021</u>
<u>Self-initiated</u>	174	205	215	244	239	229	248	206	203
<u>Calls for service</u>	169	163	225	184	136	157	151	150	162

We also conducted a traffic speed study on Sherman Street during four afternoon shifts in September. We counted 525 vehicles on Sherman Street at different times of the afternoon. We entered the speeds onto a spreadsheet and based on the observations an average of 99.7 percent of the vehicles checked were at or below the posted 25 MPH speed limit.

From September 13<sup>th</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we made 53 traffic contacts with 45 of them were for speeds over 30 MPH on Sherman Street. There were 14 citations/summons issued, ranging from 11 to 27 MPH over the posted speed. Of those contacted, all indicated it was either their first time or one of a limited amount of times traveling through Ridgway.

**BUILDING OFFICIAL UPDATE**

From Mike Gill, Building Official:

This is a reminder that absent Town approval, no excavation shall occur in Town streets, alleys and other rights of way between November 15<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> in any year (Resolution 09-11).



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – November 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Town Council Budget Workshop** – November 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – November 30, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **Monthly Space to Create Project Update Meetings with Stryker & Company** – Last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Click [HERE](#) to check out the full schedule.
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – December 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – December 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

What do you call James Bond taking a bath?

Bubble 07