



WRITTEN REPORT

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

INTRODUCTION

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

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL OPERATIONS

Winter is here! The Ridgway Public Works Department coordinates snow and ice control operations in conjunction with CDOT within the Town of Ridgway. The Department prides itself on its efforts to provide for safe and passable streets and public safety is the number one priority when clearing snow and ice on Ridgway's nearly 15 miles of roadway. Snow and ice control efforts to create safe and passable streets impact every resident, business and visitor and are vital for maintaining safe mobility throughout the Town.



Public Works will act diligently to remove snow as efficiently and quickly as possible. The response is determined by a variety of factors including, but not limited to, pavement temperatures, future weather forecast, duration of storm and type of snow. Public Works will typically plow when there is greater than 4 inches of snow fall on hard surfaces. Since all streets cannot be addressed at the same time, the priority is to keep transportation routes and main thoroughfares drivable, especially school streets. Once these streets are safe and passable, equipment is assigned to businesses, residential streets, and then critical public sidewalks. Public Works does its best to clear priority routes before the schools start and business doors open, while also taking advantage of the limited cars in the downtown area early in the morning. After that, Public Works will start removal in accordance with the priority list described above and depicted in the Town's "Snow Removal Brochure" that can be found [HERE](#).

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.

Specific to Highway 62, where there are three lanes on the highway, CDOT will plow to the center. Where there is not a center turn lane, CDOT will plow to the sides to keep the streets unobstructed. Properties abutting Highway 62 should not place snow from driveways or parking lots onto the highway. Doing so may result in enforcement action by CDOT.

For more information regarding policies and procedures in place when it snows in the Town of Ridgway, please call 970-626-5308 or click [HERE](#). The Town of Ridgway greatly appreciates your patience and understanding this winter season!

HERITAGE PARK SITE PLAN UPDATE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Town staff is working with Colorado Main Street (COMS) to utilize technical assistance support to hire a contractor to update the Heritage Park site plan to depict the latest recommendations of the *Long-Term Implementation Plan and Strategy*, which was approved by Council in June 2021. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been developed and issued, which seeks a contractor to:

- Update the preferred site plan for Ridgway's Heritage Park to align with current conditions and an updated vision for the site (e.g., existing Visitor Center to be removed).
- Update cost estimates for park structures to inform the site plan update with consideration for available funding and financial feasibility.

Proposals are due to COMS on December 16th, at which point staff and COMS reps will review the submitted proposals and confer on a contractor to move forward with.

2021 STATE OF RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING IN COLORADO REPORT

Eco-Cycle has released their *2021 State of Recycling and Composting in Colorado Report*. Click [HERE](#) to check it out.

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.

Application packages will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 17, 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 28th.

Staff will meet with DOLA reps in a Pre-Application Meeting on December 16th to discuss the project and next steps in the process.

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 29th 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. 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

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.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create

Structural steel was delivered, later than desired, but the project is still expected to finish on time. Much of the steel is now in place, and the walls are progressing. A \$25,000 donation for the community space was received from the Tim Schultz Fund for Rural Colorado, housed at Western Colorado Community Foundation. Tim has begun a fundraising effort to match his donation, and a plan has developed to name the community space the Decker Community Room.



Ridgway Independent Film Fest

About 110 people attended this year's wonderful Film Fest on Nov. 12th and 13th. Proof of vaccination was required by the Sherbino, and although that requirement was new at the time, most arrived prepared with proof. The audience voted on two People's Choice awards: Carlo Nasisse's film, *Coby and Stephen Are in Love*, won on Friday, and in a tight race on Saturday night, Kyle Anne Grendys' film, *Fraser Syndrome and Me*, got the most votes. It had also been selected for an award by Peter O'Fallon, so it received two cash awards. The other award winners were:

- The Renan Ozturk Award--*Racing the Past: Voices of Apache Youth*, Christian Rozier (U.S.)



- The Michael Stipe Award—Less Lethal, Jaime Wilken (U.S.)
- The Craig Childs Award—Identibye, Sajjad Shahhatami (Iran)
- The Taylor Rees Award—The Secret Life of Tom Lightfoot (U.K.)

The RIFF subcommittee of the Creative Main Street Group deserves much credit for the many hours and sincere effort they put into organizing the Film Fest.

Creative Main Street Group

The Creative Main Street Group has discussed draft bylaws and should have a final version ready for approval in January, after its retreat scheduled for Dec. 11. The Group is also interested in working with the Youth Advisory Council and the Safer More Affirming Communities group to assist in recommending that stickers promoting inclusivity be posted in businesses and around town. The Celebrating Main Street survey that happened in May is leading to a new series of pages on the Colorado Main Street (COMS) website, one for each Main Street community, based on the responses gathered by the survey. A draft was submitted about Ridgway to COMS staff to be uploaded soon.



Reporting

Quarterly reports for Creative Main Street were submitted to Colorado Main Street (COMS) and to Colorado Creative Industries. An initial quarterly report was also submitted to COMS for the Main Street Open for Business/Heritage Energy Pilot Project grant. Reports are available upon request.

Ridgway Noel Night

Because of the pandemic and the gap left by the retirement of Susan “Lupita” Baker (who had led the event for many years), Noel Night was not being planned. At the last minute, the new director of the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce, Ashley Perkins, stepped up to organize the event. The Creative Main Street budget supports promotions for this event with funding. It also disseminated information about the new Tri-Gallery Sale and the 18th annual Holiday Art and Gift Sale to promote purchases supporting local Creatives and the local economy.

Hiring Process for New Community Initiatives Facilitator

Diedra Silbert will be retiring at the end of December, and the job opportunity was posted with an application deadline of Nov. 16th. Interviews are scheduled for Dec. 10th.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – December 8, 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 29th.
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – January 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – January 5, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – January 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

What did Jay-Z call his wife before they got married?

Feyoncé