



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 11, 2022
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

LENA STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

In 2022, the Town intends to move forward with making improvements to Lena Street between Charles Street and Otto Street. The work will consist of the excavation, reconstruction and paving of the street, and the installation of sidewalk, curb, gutter, parking, drainage, landscaping and other related facilities and improvements on both sides of the street.

The design for the Lena Street Improvements has been developed by a licensed engineer and is nearing completion. Prior to finalizing the design and before the Town hosts a competitive sealed bid process through the issuance of a Request for Bids, the Town is giving residents, particularly the property owners adjoining the west side of this project, an opportunity to learn more about this project.

The Town is planning to hold a virtual informational session with neighboring property owners on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (Zoom meeting information below).

Topic: Lena Street Improvements Informational Session

Time: Jan 17, 2022 6:00 PM MST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83019131969?pwd=M1hHOExieDVURXRCEi9xNmxcUFlvQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 1913 1969

Passcode: 325825

Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799

NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FACILITATOR HIRED

The Town of Ridgway has named Tera Couchman Wick as the Town's new Community Initiatives Facilitator. Tera's background facilitating and coordinating creative, community-level initiatives, combined with a deep passion for advancing vibrancy and collaborative community work, will help to advance the mission of Ridgway Creative Main Street. When Tera assumes the role on January 18th, she will perform a variety of duties related to administering and facilitating various



initiatives and projects that bring the community together and nurture the local economy. She will manage and coordinate the Main Street and Creative District initiatives, which were recently administratively merged as Ridgway Creative Main Street. This initiative engages the community in preserving Ridgway's authenticity, creativity, and heritage, while advancing its vibrancy.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING OFFERED TO RIDGWAY RESIDENTS

The Town will offer curbside Christmas tree pick-up for Ridgway residents through January 14th. All trees must have their lights, ornaments and tinsel removed. The Town will only pick up cut trees. Artificial or flocked trees, wreaths or seasonal debris will not be collected.

SAN JUAN RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN RIDGWAY IN 2022

The 2022 San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days conference will be hosted by Ridgway from June 7-9, 2022. Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) is a statewide program that provides nonprofit leaders the resources they need to lead effective and sustainable organizations. RPD conferences convene nonprofits, funders, and local governments to share ideas and develop collaborative opportunities to build the capacity of local organizations and communities to address regional issues.

The Community Resource Center, along with committees of local volunteers, coordinate RPD conferences in eight rural regions throughout Colorado. The San Juan region consists of Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties. RPD conferences are hosted in each rural region every four years, with the location varying depending on the interest of host communities each cycle. The conference would have been slated for 2021, but was delayed by one-year due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Andrew and Danelle Hughes Norman will lead a regional steering committee that has already begun to plan the conference. Recruitment is still ongoing for the 20+ member regional conference Steering Committee; local nonprofit leaders, government officials, and community leaders are encouraged to consider serving on the 7- month committee which will shape the event in June. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 10 am - 4 pm in Ridgway. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Nellie Stagg at stagg@crcamerica.org.

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS

Last month, the Town issued an official communication that reminds residents and businesses about snow and ice control operations in Ridgway. It goes into detail about the Town's policies and procedures for when it snows. If you haven't seen it, you can check it out by clicking [HERE](#).

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) was 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 were due to COMS on December 16th. Only one proposal from DHM Design was submitted. Town staff and COMS reps met in a selection call to review and discuss the proposal. As a result of the meeting, DHM Design was contacted to provide clarification on some of the questions that came up. The program felt that DHM Design satisfactorily provided verbal and written clarification to the items noted during the selection call. A selection document has been developed and submitted to DOLA's contracting office. COMS will let the Town know once a contract has been executed.

MOBILE VAX BUS

The mobile vax bus will be in Ridgway at the Ouray County Fairgrounds on Thursday, January 20TH from 9am-3pm, offering all COVID-19 vaccines/boosters. Sign up here: <https://ridgway-120-cdphe-mvu15.youcanbook.me/>.

CDOT'S REVITALIZING MAIN STREETS PROGRAM

The Revitalizing Main Streets Program provides two separate grant opportunities to support local communities as they find innovative ways to reuse public spaces and help businesses reopen safely, while improving multimodal safety and accessibility along urban arterials. Staff remains interested in the *Small Multimodal & Economic Resiliency Projects* grant opportunity. Right now, there is a pause on the acceptance of applications. Staff recently learned that an updated Notice of Funding Opportunity specific to this grant will be released in early 2022. In the meantime, staff will explore potential projects that could satisfy the grant criteria. Previous grants were awarded based on the following multimodal mobility and economic recovery goals:

- Encouraging active, multimodal transportation, including better access and safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and scooters.
- Promoting public health and safety by encouraging social distancing and/or providing publicly available personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitation stations
- Improving equity and public space access for low-income and disadvantaged users
- Expanding economic opportunity and development in a regionally equitable way

RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL COURT UPDATE

The February Ridgway Municipal Court sessions will be the last for Ouray County Court Judge Zachary Martin. He has resigned from the role of Ouray County Court Judge and will be moving



away to start a new job. Town staff is looking into hiring a firm for municipal judge coverage for the months of March and April until the Ouray County Court vacancy is filled.

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.

The position is OPEN UNTIL FILLED.

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 met with DOLA and DOH reps in a Pre-Application Meeting on December 16th to discuss the project and next steps in the process. Now, the Town is awaiting word on whether it will be invited to participate in the next step of the application 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 January 26th 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

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CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer:

2022 Election

The Town's annual election process begins with the nomination period from Monday, January 31st thru Friday, February 18th. Four seats will become available. These are currently held by Councilmembers Kevin Grambley, Terry Schuyler, Adam Beck and Mayor John Clark. The election will be held on Tuesday, April 5th.

MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

Shop with a Cop

On December 18th, we had the first ever Ouray County Law Enforcement Shop with A Cop event. With the support of O Toys and other community members, nine Ouray County youths were able to shop for presents for themselves and their family members. We were also able to take them to other stores to get things for others in their family who did not need toys. Deputy Ryan Hanson and I shopped with three children. The other two agencies, Ouray Police Department and Ouray County Sheriff's Office, also shopped with three children. It was a great event, and we hope to be able to continue it for years to come.



Stuff the Cruiser Program

On December 22nd, we assisted Ouray Police Department and Ouray County Sheriff's Office with the Stuff the Cruiser Program. The Ouray Police Department has held this event over the last several years and it is usually held prior to Thanksgiving, giving families much needed food for the holiday meals. This year it fell later in the year and had great community support. Deputies delivered food to two Ridgway families.

Victim Rights Act Training

All Ouray County law enforcement personnel attended Victim Rights Act Training on December 15th and 16th, which is required as part of our grant funding for the Victims Services Program.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – January 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Lena Street Improvements Project Informational Session** – January 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom
- **Ridgway Creative Main Street Group Meeting** – January 18, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Ouray Recreation and Conservation Alliance Meeting** – January 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Ridgway Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting** – January 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – January 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Monthly Space to Create Project Update Meetings with Stryker & Company** – Last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 26th.
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – February 2, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – February 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Ridgway Town Hall and on Zoom



TOWN HALL PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432 | 970.626.5308 | www.town.ridgway.co.us

JOKE OF THE DAY

Boss texted me: "Send me one of those funny dad jokes."

Me: "I can't. I'm busy working."

Boss: "That's hilarious. Do you have any more?"