



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

INTRODUCTION

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

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP EVENT

The Town Council hosted its first Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Event from mileposts 20 to 22 on Highway 62 on Saturday, April 23rd. The group picked up a total of 48 bags of trash! Kudos to everyone who participated.



ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY EVENT

We had another successful Clean Up Day Event on April 30th! The event was well received by residents, and we filled three large roll-offs. A big thank you goes out to Bruin Waste for supplying the roll offs and for their assistance at the event. Kudos to Mayor Clark, Steven Schroeder, and Rodney Paulson for all their hard work that day!

UPDATE RE HB21-1271 INNOVATIVE HOUSING STRATEGIES – INCENTIVES GRANT PROGRAM – CATALYST ROUND

I’m excited to announce that Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has offered the Town of Ridgway a grant award in the amount of \$750,000 to assist with the Ridgway Yellow Brick Lane project! This awarded project is a part of an exciting new program through DOLA, with funding from HB21-1271, that offers state assistance to local governments that have implemented strategies to promote the development of innovative affordable housing projects. The program is funded with both federal and state stimulus funds. The Divisions of Local Government and Housing are partnering on this program to provide multi-disciplinary support to grantees.



UPDATE RE REVITALIZING MAIN STREETS: SMALL MULTIMODAL AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY GRANT

I'm excited to announce that the Colorado Department of Transportation's Application Review Committee has awarded the Town of Ridgway's Lena Street North Project the full award request amount of \$150,000! The funds will go toward the construction of the sidewalk on the west side of the street and the integrated curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the east side of the street, as well as bulb outs and curb ramps on both sides of the street.

RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE KICK-OFF EVENT A SUCCESS

Artspace Projects, Inc. (Artspace), the non-profit developer of the Ridgway Space to Create Project, hosted an application kick-off event at Ridgway Town Hall on Monday, May 2nd and Tuesday, May 3rd. Artspace staff and members of the property management team at Asset Living were available to meet in person and answer questions from prospective applicants. By the end of the day on May 3rd, 30 completed applications had been received.

Leasing applications are available at Ridgway Town Hall or online at <https://www.artspace.org/ridgway>, and they are now being accepted! There are three ways to submit your completed application:

1. In-person during the two-day application kick-off event
2. Via email to ridgway@artspace.org
3. Via USPS Mail to:
748 Cedar Creek Ave
C/O Leasing Office
Montrose, CO 81401

PARKS SEASONAL UPDATE

Emme Brown has returned to work as a seasonal parks employee for the Town this summer. Be sure to stop and say hi if you see her working in the park!

UPDATE RE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND AWARD

As a Non-Entitlement Unit of Local Government (NEU) that received American Rescue Plan dollars in 2021, we were required to submit our first annual "Project and Expenditure Report" to the US Treasury by April 30, 2022. Staff successfully submitted our Project and Expenditure Report well in advance of the deadline. We did not have any expenditures to report.

COLORADO SARS-CoV-2 WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE COLLABORATIVE

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is partnering with Colorado Wastewater Utilities to monitor SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) concentration from wastewater influent at Wastewater Utilities across the state. The goal of wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 is to provide actionable data that can be used by local public health agencies to



provide messaging about the importance of social distancing, mask-wearing, testing, and encouragement to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to decrease the burden of COVID-19 in Colorado.

Staff is planning to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with CDPHE for the Town to participate in the program. Staff will have to follow specific sampling methods when sampling wastewater influent twice per week.

UPDATE RE RIVER WATCH PROGRAM

Our organization is an active member of the River Watch program, a statewide water quality monitoring and assessment program managed under the auspices of the River Science and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Steven Schroeder, Public Works Maintenance Operator II, is our representative. The River Watch program manager recently visited our organization to test and certify our group as part of their quality control program. Steven displayed confidence and complete understanding of all the associated protocols of the River Watch program including field sampling streams and rivers in our area and the analysis of those samples in the lab.

River Watch data quantifies the physical and chemical quality of rivers across our state on a long-term time frame and large spatial scale. Here are a few highlights from this past year: 1) River Watch data was used by CPW to identify streams for reintroduction of native Colorado cutthroat trout. 2) River Watch data provide historic, consistent, baseline data that have been used by CPW this past year in various water quality investigations. The monthly metals data are especially useful as they investigate abandoned mines and their influence on receiving streams and the long period of regular data collection aids in determining the timing and magnitude of the change. River Watch sampling locations often bracket problem areas making it possible to identify the problem and take the next steps towards mitigation and conservation of the aquatic habitat. 3) Finally, this past year River Watch data was used in the biennial Regulation 93 hearing which updates the list of impaired and threatened waters (e.g., stream/river segments, lakes) across the state. States are required to submit this list for EPA approval every two years. River Watch data makes up approximately ¼ of all data assessed for this process helping identify pollutant(s) causing the impairment, when known. In addition, this data collection helps protect aquatic ecosystems for fish and wildlife as well as recreational enjoyment.

STARGAZING AND CONSTELLATION TOUR AT THE RIDGWAY COMMUNITY GARDEN

As a celebration of Ouray County's dark skies, and the Town of Ridgway as an IDA-designated Dark Sky Community, a Stargazing and Laser Guided Constellation Tour will be held at the Ridgway Community Garden on Friday May 27, 2022 at 9:00 p.m. (weather permitting). This event is Co-sponsored by the Town of Ridgway, the Ridgway Community Garden, and ROCC's Dark Sky Committee, with support from the Black Canyon Astronomical Society.

Residents and visitors are asked to park along Green Street and meet at the Garden at 9:00 p.m. for a quick summary of the evening event followed by stargazing with binoculars and a laser



guided constellation tour. Some telescopes may be available. Check back at the Ridgway Community Garden or Town websites before the event for any last-minute details, or weather-related announcements.

Bring a warm jacket, hat, and possibly gloves, as well as binoculars and a red flashlight. A limited number of 8X42 binoculars will be available.

Contact Val Szwarc at vszwarc@aol.com with any questions.

CURBSIDE BRANCH COLLECTION SERVICE STARTED MAY 4TH

The Town rolled out its annual curbside branch collection service on Wednesday, May 4th. From May through September, collection will be conducted by Public Works staff on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The criteria for collection remain the same as prior years and are as follows:

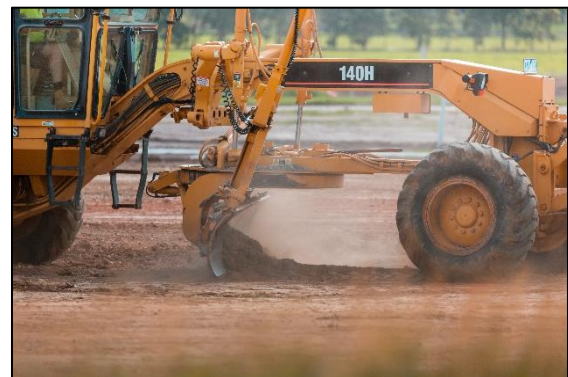
- Branches between 1" and 4" in diameter and 8 ft. in length will be accepted.
- No willow branches, sage brush, yard clippings, twigs, noxious weeds, vegetation with thorns, dirt, trash, kitchen waste or anything contained in bags will be accepted.
- Branches must be placed in the front yard by the street, not the alley, before 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning.



This service is intended to facilitate small routine maintenance by homeowners. Professional arborist work, commercial properties, HOAs, and entire tree removals are not eligible for branch collection.

ANNUAL STREET GRADING OPERATIONS BEGAN MAY 9TH

The Town commenced annual street grading operations on May 9th and the process will continue through May 25th. The street grading consists of using a street grader to restore the driving surface and drainage attributes to the Town's unpaved streets. The process will also include the application of a dust suppressant agent, known as magnesium chloride, to the unpaved streets.



The full schedule is as follows:



2022 Street Grading Schedule

May 9	Solar Ranches – Chipeta Dr. and Tabernash Ln.
May 10	Solar Ranches – All of Sabeta Dr.
May 11	Liddell Dr., then move to Vista Terrace
May 12	Vista Terrace
May 13	Magnesium Chloride above streets
May 16	Lena St. and Clinton St.
May 17	Hyde St. and Laura St.
May 18	Cora St. and Moffat St.
May 19	Charles St. and Frederick St.
May 20	Elizabeth St. and Charlotte St.
May 23	S. Amelia St.
May 24	Mary St. and N. Amelia St.
May 25	Magnesium Chloride above streets

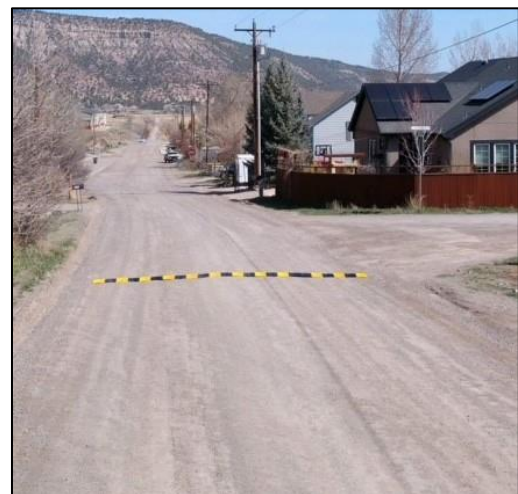
Motorists are asked to exercise extreme caution when driving in the area of a grading operation. Residents are asked to have vehicles removed from streets that are scheduled to be graded by 6:00 a.m. The Town greatly appreciates your patience and cooperation!

UPDATE RE SOLAR ARRAY ON ATHLETIC PARK RESTROOMS

Town staff recently entered into a purchase agreement with Alternative Power Enterprises, Inc. (APE) to have them furnish and install a 2.555 kW photovoltaic system on the roof of the Athletic Park restrooms. Josh Shipley, APE owner, has indicated that the solar array is scheduled to be installed the week of June 4th.

SPEED BUMP INSTALLED ON S. AMELIA STREET

A 19’ portable speed bump made of recycled rubber has been installed on S. Amelia St., just south of the intersection of S. Amelia St. and S. Elizabeth St. (see photo to right).



COLORADO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENT

On March 24th, a number of people from various agencies in our region participated in a Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) at the Ouray County 4H Event Center. A total of 32 FEMA core capabilities were assessed. Participants also examined the threats and hazards in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and determined whether each risk and hazard is a high, medium or low risk for our region. The CEPA is designed to help our county



assess risk and capabilities, identify resource gaps, and to understand grant reliance. It's the foundation for building and sustaining our emergency management program and preparedness efforts. We can use the CEPA data to inform strategic plans, training and exercise plans, procurement plans, and elected officials.

MOBILE VACCINE BUS RETURNING TO RIDGWAY

The Mobile Vaccine Bus is returning to Ridgway on Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the 4-H Fairgrounds and Event Center. Folks can sign-up [HERE](#).

FULL-TIME TOWN PLANNER OR SENIOR PLANNER JOB POSTING

The Town of Ridgway is seeking to fill the position of Town Planner or 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.

A starting salary of \$58,421 to \$64,710 is offered for the Town Planner role, depending on qualifications and experience. A starting salary of \$64,264 to \$71,181 is offered for the Senior Planner role, depending on qualifications and experience. More details for the position can be found [HERE](#).

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.

The Town of Ridgway is an equal opportunity employer.

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 May 25th 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=VElvVWZOYllwSXh5ajRBZzhralY2UT09>



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

Meeting ID: 811 6625 2778

Passcode: 778450

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 312 626 6799 US

CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer:

Concert Series Update

We are deep into the planning and organizing process for this year's free concert series. The lineup for the four shows will be announced the week of May 15th. The Town will be reassuming the operation of the alcohol tent and will be donating 10% of the proceeds to a different local non-profit each show. Four organizations have been chosen from a drawing of a compiled list, and I am in the process of reaching out to ask if they are interested in participating. Each chosen entity will be asked to have volunteers to help in the tent during the show they were chosen for, and the Town will read a small information piece about the non-profit group from the stage during the show. The tent will be manned mostly by volunteers, and it is hoped that members of the Council will sign up to work a show. If you haven't done this before it really is a fun experience.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create

Space to Create applications opened April 29th. Owner/operator ArtSpace and property manager Asset Living offered the public application assistance on May 2nd and 3rd at Town Hall. Applications are being submitted and reviewed. Move in is expected to begin in September 2022.

Heritage Park Concept Plan

The new Heritage Park concept plan is in final stages of review by staff after significant community input. The concept will be presented to Town Council for review and approval at the regular June meeting.

2022 San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days

Registrations have opened for Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD). RPD is taking place in Ridgway on June 7th, 8th, and 9th with an evening event in Hartwell Park on June 8th. To learn more and to register visit <https://crcamerica.org/programs/rural-engagement/regional-websites/san-juan/>.

First Fridays

First Fridays will take place June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, and October 7th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. in downtown Ridgway. June's event will feature music and open art studios.



Ridgway Independent Film Festival

“Think Outside” is the inspiration for Ridgway’s Independent Film Festival this year. The two-day international short film fest screens at the historic Sherbino Theater on Friday, November 11th, and Saturday, November 12th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Highlights this year include pro jurors, “Emerging Voices” films from filmmakers ages 20 and under, and an opportunity for Ridgway residents to host participants from out of town. Lean more at <http://www.ridgwaycreativedistrict.com/film-fest>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Ridgway Town Council Regular Meeting** – May 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Creative Main Street Group Meeting** – May 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Dark Skies/Star Gazing Event (hosted by ROCC’s Dark Sky Committee)** – May 20, 2022 at 9:00 p.m. at the Town of the Pines
- **Dark Skies/Star Gazing Event (hosted by ROCC’s Dark Sky Committee and Ridgway Community Garden)** – May 27, 2022 at 9:30 p.m. at the Ridgway Community Garden
- **Ridgway Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – May 31, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via 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, May 25th.
- **Rural Philanthropy Days** – June 7-9, 2022 in Ridgway
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – June 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Ridgway Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

When I found out my toaster wasn’t waterproof...

I was shocked.