



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: July 12, 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 NORTH PROJECT

On June 20th, Ridgway Valley Enterprises, on behalf of the Town of Ridgway, began construction on the Lena Street North Project.

The work will consist of the excavation, reconstruction and paving of Lena Street between Charles Street and Otto Street, and the installation of sidewalk, curb, gutter, parking, drainage, landscaping and other related facilities and improvements. As a result of several public meetings earlier this year, the Town Council authorized modifications to the design to allow for valley pan, gravel parking, and 6’ sidewalk on the west side of Lena Street.

Work will be performed Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Traffic restrictions will evolve with the project, but the street will be closed to thru traffic. Residents are encouraged to use Railroad Street as an alternate route and to allow for additional travel time. The project will take approximately 10 weeks to complete.

RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS

The 2022 San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days Conference was a success! Despite the unique challenges posed by the pandemic, regional community leaders on the Steering Committee put forth tremendous effort and care to plan this conference. A huge shoutout goes out to Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator, for representing the Town of Ridgway on the Steering Committee and for all her hard work assisting with the multi-day event. Another shoutout goes out to our Public Works crew members that helped with the setup for various events.





NEXT TRI-AGENCY DINNER

The Town of Ridgway is going to host the next Tri-Agency Dinner this fall. Staff is looking at the evening of Thursday, October 27th to hold the event. We'd like input from Council members on that date before we send out invitations to Ouray County and the City of Ouray.

RIVERFRONT VILLAGE PUD UPDATE

You may have noticed the construction fencing that has gone up around Lot 1 Triangle Subdivision off of Hwy 550. The Town held a pre-construction meeting with the Riverfront Village development team in mid-June and the development team and their contractor, FCI Constructors, are starting work on the infrastructure required to meet the conditions of the Preliminary PUD and Preliminary Plat approval obtained last fall. As a reminder, the Riverfront Village project is slated for a total of 38 residential units and four commercial units. The commercial units total approximately 3,983 square feet of ground-floor commercial area in one mixed-use building.

TOWN OF RIDGWAY SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Town of Ridgway is accepting letters of interest for appointment to the newly established *Town of Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board*. After expressing interest in advancing and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices and ideas within the Town, the Ridgway Town Council recently approved [Resolution No. 22-06](#), formally establishing a Sustainability Advisory Board.

The Town is seeking up to seven individuals to fill the available positions on the Sustainability Advisory Board. The Town Council aims to appoint members after candidates submit a letter of interest and interview with the Town Council during the August 10, 2022 Town Council meeting. Prior to submitting a letter of interest, applicants are encouraged to thoroughly review the [Town of Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Authority and Procedures](#). More details can be found below.

Purposes and Duties

The Sustainability Advisory Board will meet once per month and will be responsible for:

- Advancing and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices and ideas within the Town;
- Advising the Town Council in an effort to effectuate improvements to the Ridgway Municipal Code, Town operations and Town facilities on matters regarding sustainable practices, resource conservation, renewable energy, and waste reduction;
- Collaborating with Town staff to continue implementing the goals and objectives in the [Ouray County & San Miguel County Regional Climate Action Plan](#);
- Making recommendations to the Town Council concerning the establishment of Town-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and other goals;



- Working in cooperation with other Town boards and committees to promote sustainability policies and programs;
- Promoting sustainability awareness and practices at Town events and assist interested individuals or groups in promoting their own sustainability practices;
- Making recommendations to provide opportunities for young people to broaden their understanding of sustainability practices and the effects they have;
- Performing other tasks related to environmental sustainability as the Town Council may direct.

Eligibility

To be eligible for appointment, candidates must be residents of Ouray County.

How to Apply

To apply, please send a letter of interest to Preston Neill, Town Manager, via email at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us.

Deadline for Letters of Interest

The deadline for letters of interest is Friday, July 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

OURAY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OURAY COUNTY SCHOOLS WORK TOGETHER IN STRATEGIC PLANNING

On Tuesday, June 21st, the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, Ouray Police Department, and the Ridgway Marshal's Office met with the Ouray School District and Ridgway School District for the first of many strategic meetings and reoccurring trainings which will be between all parties.

The purpose of this initial meeting was to discuss and assess the following:

- The abilities and responsibilities of a multi-agency response.
- A clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.
- Training and education between the schools and law enforcement agencies.
- The physical security of each school.
- Communications between all partners.
- Develop a plan for future reoccurring trainings between the schools and law enforcement.

Ouray County schools and area law enforcement use the "I Love You Guys" Foundation crisis response plan and post-reunification protocols. The teamwork between law enforcement and schools is vital to keeping areas safe and secure during a threat, such as an intruder. Clear communication between partners is the first line of defense and it starts with consistent training and meetings to address needs and concerns.



Ouray County law enforcement and first responders are dedicated to the safety of our students, teachers, and staff inside of our schools. To learn more about the I Love You Guys Foundation you can visit their website at www.ILoveYouGuys.org.

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

This year the West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC), in partnership with the Ridgway Fire Protection District, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Colorado State Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, will conduct parcel-level wildfire risk assessments. These assessments will provide information about how each household can be better prepared to survive a wildfire. Parcel-level assessments are a quick overview of the property characteristics that contribute to wildfire risk, including roof type, vegetation density, and evacuation routes. If you are interested in a more in-depth, on-site, no cost wildfire risk assessment of your home and property, please visit <https://cowildfire.org/> and fill out the Site Visit Request Form located under the “Take Action” tab.

The second part of the assessment is a survey that will help WRWC understand your knowledge and perspectives on wildfire. In partnership with the University of Colorado, surveys will be mailed to all households later this year. Your participation in this survey is voluntary, but the information you provide will help emergency responders better prepare for future fires as well as improve WRWC’s outreach and education efforts. A project report will be available in early 2023, at the conclusion of the project.

If you have any questions about the parcel-level wildfire risk assessments or the survey, please email Aaron Johnson, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, WRWC, at aaron.johnson@cowildfire.org.

OLD FIREHOUSE PROJECT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

On June 17th, Patrick O’Leary and the Old Ridgway Firehouse Project development team hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Old Ridgway Firehouse Project in Lucy’s Garden. Mayor Pro-Tem Russ Meyer made some remarks on behalf of the Town. FCI Constructors, the selected contractor, has moved forward with erecting the construction fencing and staging equipment on the lot. They have started various demo and digging work. The building permit is slated to be issued very soon.





ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

The Ridgway Marshal’s Office will host an Active Shooter Training for our employees and elected/appointed officials on Wednesday, August 17th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. It will take place in the Community Center at Ridgway Town Hall. The training is meant to teach us what happens during an active shooting event, the natural response of people and what actions law enforcement takes. The training will also focus on actions people can take to save their lives and the lives of others.

Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the training. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Deb Overton at doverton@town.ridgway.co.us by end of business on Friday, July 22nd.

CML ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mayor Clark and I attended CML’s 100th Annual Conference during the week of June 20th. It was a great conference with over 40 sessions and two awesome keynotes.

TJ Dlubac, the Town’s planning consultant, and I were speakers at a session on “Outsourcing Development Review.” It was a session meant to provide attendees perspective from two planning firms (Community Planning Strategies and Baseline) and two municipalities (Ridgway and Eaton) on 1) what the considerations should be for outsourcing planning and development services, 2) pros and cons for outsourcing, and 3) challenges that come with outsourcing.



The session was very well attended and one of my major takeaways was that many cities and towns across Colorado are struggling to find staffing, including planners, to keep up with the ongoing development wave Colorado is currently experiencing.

2022 COLORADO LAWS ENACTED AFFECTING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

Each year, CML analyzes the laws passed by the General Assembly that affect cities and towns. *2022 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments* focuses on selected acts that have a particular significance for municipal operations, services, and powers. It is not a comprehensive listing of all new legislation enacted into law affecting municipal government. *2022 Colorado Laws Enacted Affecting Municipalities* is available to all for free and can be viewed [HERE](#).



PRELIMINARY FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS PRESENTED AT PUBLIC MEETING ON JUNE 29TH

Earlier this year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) provided the Town of Ridgway with preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Ouray County for review and comment by Town officials and members of the public. FEMA prepared the preliminary

version of the FIRM using a process that involves capturing flood hazard information in a digital format and plotting map panels using computer technology. In so doing, they have incorporated all non-revised flood hazard information from all current effective FIRMs, Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps as appropriate. FEMA has posted the digital copies of the revised FIRM and FIS report materials to the following website:

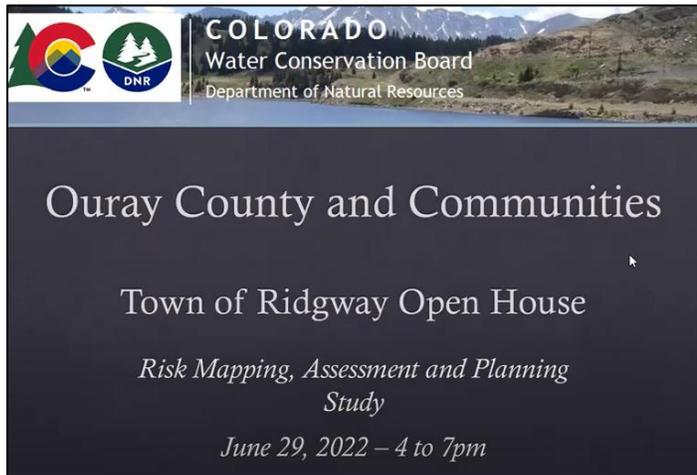
www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata/

All comments and changes received during this review period were incorporated, as appropriate. The community's comments on the preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of FEMA's review process.

A formal community coordination meeting (*Ouray County Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Study Public Meeting*) was arranged and held on June 29th. At that meeting the preliminary FIRMs and FIS report information were presented to community members. Town officials and representatives from CWCB, FEMA and the mapping contractor, CDM Smith, were in attendance. To check out the video from the meeting, click [HERE](#).

UPDATE RE SOLAR ARRAY ON ATHLETIC PARK RESTROOMS

The new 2.555 kW photovoltaic system has been installed on the roof of the Athletic Park restrooms!





NEW PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK

The Town recently purchased a new truck for our Public Works Department. The truck came in under budget and we're hoping to have it in service in the next few weeks.



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 July 27th 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=VEIvVWZOYllwSXY5ajRBZzhralY2UT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6625 2778

Passcode: 778450

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 312 626 6799 US

MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

- **New Patrol Vehicle**

The new patrol car will be in service soon. There has been a delay in obtaining the graphics.



- **Ouray County Food Pantry Active Shooter Training**

On July 6th, I met with the group from the Ouray County Food Pantry and went through an active shooter and threat assessment.

- **Ouray County Pride Event**

We worked closely with the organizers of the Ouray County Pride Event from a security standpoint and the event went very well.



- **Calls for Service**

According to dispatch stats, we are up on calls for service about 10% over this time last year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Ridgway Town Council Regular Meeting** – July 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Creative Main Street Group Meeting** – July 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Ridgway Concert** – July 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Hartwell Park
- **Ridgway Concert** – July 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Hartwell Park
- **Ridgway Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – July 26, 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, July 27th.
- **Ridgway Concert** – July 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Hartwell Park
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – August 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Ridgway Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

Had that dream again where I'm a pterodactyl but can't fly very good and all the other pterodactyls call me a "terribledactyl" and all the dinosaurs laugh at me.