



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: May 10, 2023
RE: **Town Manager’s Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

STREET GRADING OPERATIONS UNDERWAY

The Town began annual street grading operations on Monday, May 8th and the process will continue through May 24th. 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 also includes the application of a dust suppressant agent, known as magnesium chloride, to the unpaved streets.

The full schedule is as follows:

2023 Street Grading Schedule

- May 8** *Solar Ranches – Chipeta Dr. and Tabernash Ln.*
- May 9** *Solar Ranches – All of Sabeta Dr.*
- May 10** *Liddell Dr., then move to Vista Terrace*
- May 11** *Vista Terrace*
- May 12** *Clinton St.*
- May 15** *Magnesium Chloride above streets*
- May 16** *Hyde St. and Laura St.*
- May 17** *Cora St. and Moffat St.*
- May 18** *Charles St. and Frederick St.*
- May 19** *Elizabeth St. and Charlotte St.*
- May 22** *S. Amelia St.*
- May 23** *Mary St. and N. Amelia St.*
- May 24** *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 of Ridgway greatly appreciates everyone’s patience and cooperation!



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR MASTER PLAN FOR RIDGWAY ATHLETIC PARK

The Town of Ridgway has issued a “Request for Proposal” (RFP) seeking qualified and experienced individuals or firms to submit proposals to provide a plan, process, and approach for the public engagement and master planning for a parks parcel known as the Ridgway Athletic Park. The full Request for Proposal can be viewed [HERE](#). Proposals are due by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 2nd.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT TOURS

Town staff members gave tours of the Water Treatment Plant to Ridgway Secondary School students (6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes) on April 24th and 25th. The students weathered the elements and did a great job of listening to our presentation on our watershed, what’s in our water, and how our treatment system works.



SKATEPARK REPAIR WORK COMPLETED

The skatepark located within the Ridgway Athletic Park was closed the week of April 17-21 while repair work was undertaken. Our Public Works crew (shout out to Jeff Rivera and Bobby Barnes!) worked with representatives of Evergreen Skateparks to update and repair areas of the skatepark to provide for an improved and safer experience for skaters.

RIDGWAY WETTERHORN HOMES LOTTERY TIMELINE

Q&A – OFFICE HOURS	Weekly Office hours in Ridgway
MODEL HOME TOURS	By Appointment
EXCEPTION APPLICATION DEADLINE	Wednesday May 31, 2023 Noon
LOTTERY APPLICATION CLOSES	Wednesday May 31,2023 Noon
EXCEPTION HEARING (if needed)	Tuesday June 6, 2023 9 am
LOTTERY LIST POSTED	Tuesday June 6, 2023 by 5 PM
APPEAL DEADLINE	Thursday June 8, 2023 Noon
APPEAL HEARING (if needed)	Tuesday June 13, 2023 TBD
LOTTERY DRAWING!	Thursday, June 15, 2023 NOON
LOTTERY RESULTS POSTED	Thursday, June 15, 2023 by 5 PM
HOME SELECTION	Monday June 19, 2023
CONTRACTS SIGNED	Beginning June 23, 2023
CLOSING & MOVE IN	Rolling dates August – September 2023



LOVE YOUR VALLEY FESTIVAL

The Love Your Valley Festival is set for Saturday May 20th with the local band Joint Point playing during the event which runs from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. There are 18 brewers attending, and for a \$25 fee, participants can purchase a tasting glass to sample microbrews. Two new Concert Series sponsor's in-kind contributions will provide lodging for out of area brewers. Two other sponsors are providing radio advertising for the event, and one placement of banners in both Ridgway and Ouray.

RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Join Artspace, along with the Town of Ridgway, Ridgway FUSE, and Colorado Creative Industries on Thursday, June 22nd from 4 to 7 p.m. for a fun, festive evening featuring live performances and art exhibitions from the local community. Your friends and family are invited to the official Grand Opening of Ridgway Space to Create and the 10th anniversary of the Ridgway Colorado Creative District!

RIDGWAY SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR 2023-2024 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Town is now accepting applications from area youth for appointment to the 2023-2024 Town of Ridgway Youth Advisory Council. The application materials, which include application submittal requirements and eligibility criteria, are available [HERE](#). Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31st.

ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY EVENT

We had another successful Clean Up Day Event on April 22nd! 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, Rodney Paulson, and Bobby Barnes for all their hard work that day!





FIRST GRADERS BUILD NEST BOXES FOR BLUEBIRDS

From Mary Menz:

Ridgway Elementary School’s first grade class built ten bluebird nest boxes and mounted them, with approval, on Town of Ridgway property along the Uncompahgre River Trail.

Lumber for the nest boxes was paid for and donated by Black Canyon Audubon Society. BCAS member and former chapter president Jon Horn cut, marked, and assembled the pieces into ten kits specifically crafted for small hands to screw the boxes together.

Students worked in pairs to build the nest boxes with guidance of local naturalist Carrie Krickbaum, PE and outdoor education coordinator Krista Javoronok, and first grade teacher Kelly Croke. As part of the unit, students also learned how to use binoculars and facts about cavity nesting habits of bluebirds and when to expect to see nesting birds.

“Any small bird might live in this house,” said thoughtful first-grader Patrick (last name withheld per school protocol) as he held a box against a tree. “If we put it here, they can see if predators come near them.” Students held the boxes against tree trunks or fence posts while an adult used a power screwdriver to attach it.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

In 2021, the Town Council entered into an agreement with CDOT to “adopt” a segment of State Highway 62 from milepost 20 to milepost 22 for a period of two years. As part of that agreement, the Town Council committed to picking up litter a minimum of two times each year. All volunteers are asked to watch two safety videos which are located at <https://www.codot.gov/programs/adopt-a-highway/videos.html>. The time has come to pinpoint a date and time to hold another clean up event this summer!



COMMUNITY LAND TRUST CONFERENCE

From Home Trust of Ouray County:

The Home Trust had a strong presence at the Colorado Community Land Trust's Inaugural Conference last week (April 19-20) near Buena Vista.



Pictured above is Executive Director Andrea Sokolowski speaking to the barriers and successes of scaling a rural nonprofit community land trust.

We want to thank Preston Neill, Ridgway Town Manager, as well as Silas Clarke, City Administrator, and Lily Oswald, Community Development Director, of the City of Ouray for participating in this conference with the Home Trust. Having our local government leadership attending this conference truly exemplified the growing level of support the Home Trust has for addressing affordable housing issues in our region.

Andrea also represented the Home Trust in a panel of speakers discussing the expanding model of Community Land Trusts to include rental and commercial projects, which the Home Trust of Ouray County is on the forefront of doing as well.

REGIONAL GRANTS NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

With support from the State of Colorado, Region 10 has established a Regional Grants Navigator program to support local governments in pursuit of funds from the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Region 10 has contracted Colleen Hannon to assist with the Regional Grant Navigator Project. Town staff met with Colleen on April 18th to get an update on Region 10's work to date and to give her information on current and future infrastructure projects and our overall needs. Colleen will provide a report in the coming weeks that will detail some available funding opportunities based on the needs that we expressed.

DEVELOPER WORKSHOP

Town staff and consultants will hold a Developer Workshop on Tuesday, May 23rd at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the Workshop is to give an overview presentation on the new updates to Chapter 7 of the Ridgway Municipal Code and to lead members of the development community through an exercise intended to provide clarity on the new application processes and associated application types. Staff will present development scenarios and explain the application process that an applicant would go through. Members of the development community are welcome and encouraged to attend this work session. **Please note that it will be a virtual meeting only.** The virtual meeting info is as follows:



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89549449336?pwd=aTkOUERIWkRmjl2ZDFIQ25mZWc5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 895 4944 9336

Passcode: 483082

Dial by your location

+1 719 359 4580

+1 346 248 7799

OURAY COUNTY WORKFORCE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATE

From Sarah Curtis, Executive Director of All Points Transit:

As of today, May 8th, we have not received a contract for signature from CDOT for our MMOF Ouray Project. I have inquired when we can expect this to be in place, but have not received an answer. We have seen motion on the process from the CDOT side, but I am still concerned that we will not have everything in place by May 26th as we had hoped.

I am attaching a letter from the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies that was sent to CDOT Director Lew; you can see that All Points Transit and this project are not alone in this situation. Our agency is fortunate that the delays are not having the dire impacts on our standard operations as others are experiencing. However, we cannot incur costs for the Ouray project that will be billed to the MMOF grant until that specific contract is in place.

I believe we should plan to delay our launch date until June 15th. I am hopeful that this will give ample time to get the contract in place and allow us to get reimbursements going without risk to our agency or the project.

MENTAL HEALTH QPR TRAINING

AXISHealth System is hosting two Mental Health QPR Training sessions on Monday, June 19th. The first is at 11:00 a.m. and the second is at 5:00 p.m. The training is free, but registration is required. For more information and to register visit www.womansclubouraycounty.org/mental-health-training.

SWCAHEC OPIOID EDUCATION AND NARCAN TRAINING

Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center is hosting an Opioid Education and Narcan Training on June 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the Sherbino Theater. No registration necessary. Contact Kate Hartzell at kate.hartzell@swcahec.org or 970-426-4284 with questions. Free Narcan for each participant!



MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

Training

On 05-11-2023 Senior Deputy Ryan Hanson and Deputy Jim Duncan attended Human Factors and the Use of Force training.

On 05-06-2023 I took part in Western Slope Law Enforcement Community Discussion. It was held at the 4-H Center and was very well attended by members of communities across the region. It was a very good discussion on law enforcement trends locally and in surrounding areas, and nationally.

Statistics

As of 05-08-2023 we are at 1,643 calls for service and self-initiated field activity as compared to same time in 2022 at 1457 calls for service and self-initiated field activity.

Of those calls for service we have seen an increase in mental health issues occupying a large amount of officers' time. Despite our best efforts, these issues can result in criminal charges, and high risk to the safety of our officers. We are working closely with our Mental Health, Medical, and District Attorney partners to try and address these issues.

Deputy Jeff Pickle Returning Soon

Deputy Jeff Pickle has been out since January 23, 2023, with a non-work-related injury, and we are hoping to have him back the first of June.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Space to Create Grand Opening - Thursday June 22 from 4-7PM

The Town of Ridgway and the FUSE Creative Main Street program joins with the residents of Space to Create and ArtSpace, to celebrate the grand opening of Space to Create along with the 10th anniversary of the Ridgway's status as a Certified Creative District. Clinton street from North Cora to North Laura will be closed to make way for festivities:

- Speakers and honoring key contributors
- Dedication of the Decker Community Room
- Community art show in the Decker Gallery
- Performers – music and dance
- Food and drink
- Celebrating 10 years as a Certified Creative community.
- FUSE Storytelling Project launch



Ridgway Independent Film Festival Planning is Underway

The first volunteer planning committee meeting took place on May 4th. Arielle Bielak is again serving as the volunteer festival director.

The Creatives Directory is Live!

The Creatives Directory is a free listing of people who live or work in the Ridgway/Ouray area who create with their hands or minds. Our communities thrive on creativity and innovation, and we want to spread the word about the talented folks who live here! The Directory will be widely promoted starting in summer 2023, in partnership with Ouray Made and Alpenglow Arts Alliance, to help increase opportunities for area creatives. Please help spread the word. The listing is open to creatives of all sorts! The directory and sign-up details can be accessed at <https://www.ridgway-fuse.org/creativesdirectory>.

FUSE Sponsorship Process Established

In keeping with a goal stated in their strategic plan, FUSE Creative Main Street Program has created and announced a process for providing modest financial sponsorships for community initiatives that promote the creative, historic and/or economic vitality in downtown Ridgway. Examples include events, public art projects, classes etc. We've called the fund "Ignited by FUSE Funds".

Sponsorship proposals will be evaluated by the FUSE committee and awarded on a rolling basis until budgeted funds are expended. \$5,000 has been allocated for sponsorships within the FUSE budget in 2023. Maximum awards will be \$1,000. Limit of one sponsorship per organization per year.

To be considered for sponsorship, organizations or individuals must present a brief proposal about their idea at a FUSE meeting either in person or via Zoom. Proposals should include a description of how the initiative will advance the creative, historic and/or economic vitality of Ridgway, expected timeframe and how the requested funds will be spent.

FUSE committee members or staff will declare any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest and abstain from decisions with which they may have a conflict of interest.

Groups who are awarded sponsorships will be required to submit financial documentation as required by the Town such as invoices, receipts and/or tax documentation. Fund recipients will also be asked to include the FUSE logo in branding materials and share photos of the project with FUSE after it is completed.

An announcement was emailed to FUSE mailing list 5/5/2023 and posted on social media. Complete details are available at the FUSE website: <https://www.ridgway-fuse.org/funds>



New Resources added to FUSE Page for Creative Entrepreneurs

To help promote opportunities for creatives in the Area, the FUSE website now has a free listing of Calls for Creatives as well as other resources and opportunities for creatives.

<https://www.ridgway-fuse.org/calls>

Additional resources have also been added for entrepreneurs including information about funding resources and professional development opportunities. <https://www.ridgway-fuse.org/entrepreneurs>

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – May 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – May 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person and virtually via Zoom
- **Love Your Valley Festival** – May 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in Hartwell Park
- **Developer Workshop** – May 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Ice Cream Social to say Goodbye to Liz Teitz and Hello to Daniel Schmidt** – May 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Hartwell Park
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – May 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – June 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – June 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Wetterhorn Homes Lottery Drawing** – June 15, 2023 at Noon in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Rollans Park Cleanup (hosted by UWP)** – June 17, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Rollans Park



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

JOKE OF THE DAY

From Polly Kroger, Town Council member:

My uncle has two Dobermans. One is called Rolex, and the other is called Timex.

They are watch dogs.