



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: June 14, 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.

RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE BLOCK PARTY AND 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!

COMMUNITY GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

Ridgway Public Works recently completed the various improvements at the Ridgway Community Garden. Gravel was hauled in and spread out in the parking area and weeds were addressed.

UPDATE RE RFP FOR CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR NEW RIDGWAY VISITOR CENTER

The COMS team has the draft RFP almost completed to send this out next fiscal year (starting in July). After a few minor tweaks are made, they will send this back to Town staff for one last look. The schedule will be:

- Release in July
- Comments due in 10 days
- Final proposals due approximately three weeks from release date.
- Estimated start date will be late August to early September





COMS anticipates that the proposed budgets within the proposals will be expensive, so COMS may need to get creative on what the program can cover, and what might be asked of the Town. COMS’s budget for this project is \$55,000, so we will cross that bridge when we come to it.

NEW POLITICAL BOUNDARY SIGNS INSTALLED

The Town recently purchased three new Type-2 political boundary signs and had them installed at the entrances to Town.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

This is a reminder that the next Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Event for mileposts 20 to 22 on Hwy 62 is coming up on Saturday, July 8th at 9:00 a.m.



REGIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE ON JUNE 20TH

Montrose County Housing Authority is hosting a regional housing conference on June 20th that I will attend. Caseworkers, landlords, local government elected officials, planning department team members and housing authority representatives are invited to attend this free event.

This event will focus on Delta, Montrose, Ouray and Gunnison counties, and aims to provide an opportunity for professional development and education among case workers, local government staff and elected officials and landlords.

They have designed three tracks, although attendees may select sessions in alternative tracks if they wish to. The day will begin with keynote speaker Elizabeth Garner, the Colorado State Demographer. HUD Regional Administrator Dominique Jackson will also speak during the networking lunch and the day will close out with a wrap up from Montrose County Commissioner Sue Hansen.

OURAY COUNTY WORKFORCE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT UPDATE

From Sarah Curtis, Executive Director of All Points Transit:

I wanted to let you know that we are still waiting for the CDOT contract to begin the Montrose-Ouray route. At this point, I believe we should plan for launching this route after the 4th of July holiday. I will keep you all posted if anything changes there.

I spoke with Silas yesterday about some hiring challenges, as well, specifically for the evening and weekend shifts for this route. If anyone has ideas for how we might reach employees who live in Montrose and work in Ouray who would also like to get paid to drive our company vehicle, please do not hesitate to send them our way!



In addition - I have a new item for discussion. The "Western Slope Schools Collaborative" has offered to support our vehicle purchase with \$10,000 to help fill the gap on our vehicle funding (yay!). They are requesting that we offer free rides to students for some period of time, to be negotiated. This is an estimated 5-6 student riders per day (possibly less) that are traveling between Ridgway and Montrose and back again. If you have immediate ideas or thoughts, please let us know by email. If you all would like to get together to talk this through, we can set a time for that, as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE WATERSHED

From Tanya Ishikawa, UWP Executive Director:

Hello, Town of Ridgway Staff and Council Members,

I wanted to get these events on your radars. We would love to see you at any of these!

1. Taking Care of the Uncompahgre River Valley, panel with Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, Shavano Conservation District and Friends of the River Uncompahgre, June 15, 1-2:30pm, Montrose Library (no rsvp necessary)
2. Rollans Park Cleanup, Rollans Park, Ridgway, June 17, 9 a.m.-noon (Please email Tanya to let me know if you can come: tanya@uncompahgrewatershed.org)
3. World's Largest Swimming Lesson, Ridgway State Park Swim Beach at Dutch Charlie, Thursday, June 22, 3-4 p.m. (Please email Tanya or [signup online](#))
4. 15th Annual Ridgway RiverFest, Rollans Park, Ridgway, Saturday, June 24, Noon to 5 p.m. [Info on schedule](#), and [sign up to volunteer](#) if you have some time!

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING REGION CONSTRUCTION UPDATES (REGION 5)

Recently Completed Projects

R5 Yr 5 Bridge Preventative Maintenance- 20706

Budget: \$2 mill

Funding Type: Structures

Awarded: KSK, LLC

This project was located on SH 141 within Montrose County. Preventative maintenance was performed on three select bridges to improve the quality and extend the life of the structures. Construction began in May 2022 and was completed in April 2023.

US 550 Ouray to Colona HMA- 20121

Budget: \$ 17 million for Construction

Funding Type: SUR, RPP, FSA, HSIP



Awarded: Kilgore Companies, LLC

This project was combined with the US 550 Billy Creek Surface Treatment work. The project is located on US 550 from Ouray to Colona, approximately MP 94-116. The scope of work includes an HMA leveling course and overlay with a 2-mile section to include shoulder widening between MP 98 and 100. Shouldering work was completed in December, prior to the winter shutdown. Work has resumed and should be complete in May 2023.

Upcoming Projects

US 550 Pacochupuk South Mobility & Billy Crk Safety Improvements- 23601

Budget: \$7 million

Funding Type: SUR/SB-267

Ad Date: Summer 2023

This project will take place on US 550 in Ouray County, between approximately MP 106 and 114.5, just north of the Ridgway State Park entrance. The scope of work includes limited shoulder widening, repairing existing deer fencing and connecting new deer fencing to the existing at MP 212.5. A large animal underpass will be constructed at Billy Creek, between MP 114 and 115. HMA patching will take place between Pacochupuk campground and the CR 8 intersection and passing lanes will be added. This project is being designed for Ad in summer 2023.

SH 145 MP 63.4 Wall Replacement- 24148

Budget: \$1.5 mill

Funding Type: Walls

Ad Date: Fall 2023

This project will take place on SH 145 near Ophir, at approximately MP 63.4. At this location, there are two wooden walls that are in need of replacement. Due to budget limitations, this project has been delayed for advertisement until late 2023 for possible construction in 2024.

US 550 MP 81 & 89 Bluepoint Avalanche Mitigation- 23623

Budget: \$660k

Funding Type: GeoHaz

Awarded: Geovert

This project is located on US 550 at approximate MP 81- 89 in Ouray County. This avalanche mitigation project will install a Gasex avalanche system on a known avalanche slide, Bluepoint and an Obelex system on the Mother Cline slide. The installation of these systems will allow maintenance crews to trigger avalanches remotely when needed. This project has been awarded and construction is planned for summer 2023.



R5 FY22 Chain Stations- 24425

Budget: \$5 mill

Funding Type: Freight

Ad Date: November 2023

This chain station project will be located on SH 145 in San Miguel County, as well as US 160 Wolf Creek Pass and La Veta Pass, and SH 17 Cumbres Pass. A total of four new chain stations will be constructed or improved. Work will include light installation, widening and paving, conduit installation and guardrails where needed. In addition to chain stations, 4 VMS signs will be replaced in both Region 3 and Region 5. This project went to Ad in February 2023. The bids came in too high and were rejected. The project is being repackaged for re-advertisement in November. The exact chain station locations are below:

- SH 145, MP 71.5 (west of roundabout)
- SH 145, Deep Creek MP 68.9 (paving and no parking signs)
- US 160, La Veta Pass MP 276.7
- SH 17, Cumbres Pass MP 0.1
- US 160, Wolf Creek Upper East MP 173.7 (Paving Only)

GHG ROADMAP: COLROADO COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The State of Colorado is updating its climate plan, including a new set of near-term actions the state is committing to take over the next five years.

As the State puts together their updated plan, they want to hear from you to make sure they understand Coloradans' priorities and concerns. They are hosting the following family-friendly meetings to get input:

- Greeley - June 8, dinner at 5:30 PM, program 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- Pueblo - June 13, dinner at 5:30 PM, program 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- Durango - June 20, dinner at 5:30 PM, program 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- Grand Junction - June 21, dinner at 5:30 PM, program 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- Craig - June 22, dinner at 5:30 PM, program 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- Virtual event(s) - June 27, 11:00 - 1:00 PM

[Register here if you plan to attend!](#) Specific locations will be announced to registrants and updated as they are confirmed.

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!

CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer:

Love Your Valley Festival

The Love Your Valley Fest was held on Saturday, May 20th. Everyone who attended really enjoyed the day, with 19 breweries participating, and great live music provided by Joint Point.

Two concert series sponsors, KVNF and Alpine Bank, advertised the festival on regional radio stations for a month prior to the event.

Two concert series sponsors, Ouray Riverside Resort and Chipeta Lodge and Spa, provided lodging on Saturday night for the brewers; and another sponsor, Orvis Hot Springs, provided two passes. Brewers were asked to bring two pony-kegs (or equivalent in cans), jockey box and a tent; and the Town provided tables, chairs and ice.

Participants that chose to sample the micro-brews paid a \$25 fee for a tasting glass and wristband; proceeds benefit the free concert series. Receipts from participants was \$9,800. The last LYVF was held in 2019, and receipts were \$11,740 for a \$20 participant fee. Weather during the event was nice and rain free, though there were rains in surrounding areas, perhaps this was the reason attendance was down from 2019.

Ridgway Concert Series

The 16th annual Concert Series will be held this year on July 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

Two of our sponsors contributed \$5,000 this year, which is twice the amount of major sponsorship, so I am listing them as "Major-Major Sponsors".

We had a great response from non-profit organizations interested in joining us in the beer tent during the concert series. We mailed letters to 40 local non-profit organizations and received responses from Home Trust of Ouray County; Ridgway Fire Protection District; Ridgway Area Trails; Ouray County Baseball; Voyager Youth Program; George Gardner Scholarship Fund; Ouray County Food Pantry; Ridgway Western Heritage Society; Ridgway Community Garden; Ouray County Soccer Club; Ridgway Pickleball Club; Ouray Mountain Rescue; Minerva West Performing Arts.



A random drawing from the list was held in mid-May and the organizations chosen were:

- Ouray County Soccer Club
- Ouray Mountain Rescue
- George Gardner Scholarship Fund
- Ridgway Area Trails Group

The participating organizations will be providing 12 volunteers over the age of 21 to work from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. the night of the show. They will receive 10% of the receipts for the night, which will be calculated after all costs are deducted, and half of the tips collected that night.

*** Following is this year's press release: ***

The free Ridgway Concert Series began in 2009 as a local event, and has grown to become an extremely popular regional event.

Some of the headliners from past concerts include:

Peter Rowan	Pato Banton	Steep Canyon Rangers
Billy Strings	Lake Street Dive	Carrie Rodriguez
Big Sam's Funky Nation	Euforquestra	March Fourth Marching Band
Andy Frasco	Eilen Jewell	Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band
The Travelin' McCoury's	Mike Love	Ozomatli
Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real		Carolyn Wonderland
Devon Allman Project with Duane Betts		The Lowdown Brass Band

The outdoor shows are held in Hartwell Park every Thursday in July, music begins with an opening act at 6:00 pm, and ends around 10:00 pm. Please bring low back chairs, blankets or tarps (shade type structures will not be permitted).

Items offered for sale include a variety of food vendors; local non-profit organizations selling snacks; and an alcohol tent offering micro brewed beers off tap, hard cider, margaritas and wines.

This year's alcohol tent will offer for sale:

July 6 Beer from SKA Brewing; Snow Capped Cider - Sour Cherry and 6130'; Coyote Gold Margaritas; Wine - Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc

July 13 Beer from Silver Basin Brewing; Snow Capped Cider- Sour Cherry and 6130'; Coyote Gold Margaritas; Wine - Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc



July 20 Beer from Colorado Boy Brewery-Ridgway; Snow Capped Cider - Colorado Peach and Lavender Lemonade; Coyote Gold Margaritas; Wine - Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc

July 27 Beer from Palisade Brewing; Snow Capped Cider - Colorado Peach and Lavender Lemonade; Coyote Gold Margaritas; Wine - Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc

This year a portion of the proceeds from the alcohol sales will go to support four local non-profits - Ouray Mountain Rescue; Ouray County Soccer Association; George Gardner Scholarship Fund; and Ridgway Area Trails Group.

No outside alcohol will be allowed in the park.

Dogs are not allowed in the park.

Please do not leave pets unattended in vehicles, it is too warm in July to leave them in a closed vehicle.

Sponsors of the 2023 series are:

Major-Major Level:

- Mountain Annie's Cannabis
- Rocky Mountain Cannabis

Major Level:

- Billings Artworks
- Ridgway Real Estate
- Alpine Bank
- Hoffman Foundation
- Mountain Lodge
- Colorado Boy Brewery
- San Juan Wine & Liquors
- Clearnetworkx
- Alternative Power
- Chipeta Lodge and Spa
- Fiddlers Green Cannabis Dispensary

Minor Level:

- Orvis Hot Springs
- The Market at Ridgway



- Julie and Dave Duff
- Ouray Riverside Resort
- Palisade Brewing
- KVNF
- SKA Brewing

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Colorado Creative Industries Summit

Mayor John Clark, Arielle Bielak and Tera Wick attended the Colorado Creative Industries district convening and summit May 31 – June 2 at the Crested Butte Center for the Arts. John, Arielle, and Tera will be scheduling a detailed summit report and discussion with FUSE in July.

May 31 was a convening of Colorado Creative districts from around the state who shared highlights from their programming.

- There are lots of interesting things going on in what is now a list of 30 Districts!
- There was a lunch workshop with Sharon Loudon: Cultivating Mentors who shared insights into how to convene artists for collaboration and mentorship.

June 1 and 2 was a statewide conference of players across Colorado creative industries – creatives, arts administrators, elected officials, non-profit leaders, and funders.

Key topics included:

- New funding opportunities and business resources for the creative sector.
- Principles for accessibility in the arts.
- Western Colorado University film professor Bernadette Salem and Diné filmmaker John Foguth who screened their documentary, "Learning the Bear Dance."
- Connecting with other small town creative districts – opportunities exist for reciprocal art shows and other resource sharing.
- How to sustain a creative life on a personal and community level.
- Arts as a healing modality.
- How to run a successful capital campaign.
- Keeping it green: sustainability in the arts
- Connecting with other regional film festivals, including Crested Butte Film Festival screening at the non-profit Majestic Theater.
- Immersive Art and Design: Practices and Potentials
- Durango Creative District's Implementation of Lodgers' Tax Arts and Culture Fund
- Building a Table: Centering Storytelling & Literary Arts to Build Strong Communities
- Mobilizing Resources for Artists, Organizations and Communities
- Rural Arts Connect: Harnessing the Power of a Network



- Legacy Conversation featuring Maryo Gard Ewell, Tony Garcia, Deborah Thornton, Anthony Garcia Sr., and Louise Martorano

Space to Create Block Party and Grand Opening – June 22 4PM – 7PM

- 100 people have RSVP'd for the Space to Create Grand Opening
- Speakers:
 - Program Emcee & Opening Remarks, Mayor John Clark
 - Katie Kramer, President & CEO Boettcher Foundation
 - Margaret Hunt, Office of Economic Development and International Trade
 - Ruth Wilson, Administration & Partnerships Director Colorado Creative Industries
 - Bobby LeFebre, Colorado Poet Laurette
 - Diedra Silbert, retired Community Initiatives Facilitator, Town of Ridgway (pending)
 - Rick Garcia, DOLA Executive Director
 - Wendy Holmes, Senior Vice President of Artspace Consulting
 - Resident representative, Emily Quayle (pending)
- Event Highlights:
 - Aerialist artist performing on Silks, Marissa Feller
 - Featured exhibitions in the FUSE gallery and Ridgway Space to Create gallery
 - Performances by: Old Man Polly, David Nunn and Minerva West
 - Featured balloon artists for kids, Tonya McNeil

Ignited by FUSE Funds

- At its May meeting, Ridgway FUSE awarded its first two “Ignited by FUSE” sponsorships to Fete de la Musique and Ouray County Pride at \$1,000 each.
- Details for the fund process can be found at www.ridgwayfuse.org/funds.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **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** – June 15, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. 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
- **Ouray County Pride Celebration** – June 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at Hartwell Park



- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – June 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Space to Create Block Party and Celebration!** – June 22, 2023 from 4 to 7 p.m. at 675 Clinton St.
- **Ridgway Riverfest** – June 24, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at Rollans Park
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – June 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting** – TBD in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – July 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **First Concert of Ridgway Concert Series!** – July 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Hartwell Park
- **Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Event** – July 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at mileposts 20-22 Hwy 62
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – July 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Second Concert of Ridgway Concert Series!** – July 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Hartwell Park

JOKE OF THE DAY

From Steven Schroeder, Public Works Maintenance Operator II:

I used to have a job at a calendar factory, but I got fired because I took a couple days off.