



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** April 7, 2023  
**RE:** **Town Manager's Report**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **DATE CHANGE! RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**

The grand opening celebration for Ridgway Space to Create will be held on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information to follow!

### **FLOOD PREPAREDNESS**

With the increase in snowpack also comes the increase in runoff and high waters. The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has requested that emergency management present an analysis of Ouray County's preparedness for flooding at the April 18<sup>th</sup> BOCC meeting. Glenn Boyd, Ouray County emergency manager, has organized a meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the flooding preparedness of all emergency support functions. Town staff will be present at that meeting and, based on the outcomes from that discussion, will work to prepare and push out needed messaging regarding high flows in the Uncompahgre River and other areas.

### **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK!**

This April 15-22 is International Dark Sky Week. Every year, the International Dark-Sky Association hosts International Dark Sky Week during the month of April in order to create greater awareness about light pollution and its negative consequences, the solutions, and simultaneously celebrate the night.



Light pollution has far-reaching consequences that disrupt all living things. Effective outdoor lighting reduces light pollution, leading to a better quality of life for all. The dark sky movement is working to bring better lighting to communities around the world so that all life can thrive. Check out [@IDADarkSky's](https://twitter.com/IDADarkSky) global calendar of events and activities at [idsw.darksky.org](https://idsw.darksky.org).



### **ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY EVENT**

The Town will hold the annual Cleanup Day event on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the lot behind the Ridgway Public Library on Railroad Street. The Town will provide dumpsters and residents are encouraged to bring their refuse to the site between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

### **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 spring or summer!

### **WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

After experiencing some significant supply chain issues in 2022, the Town has started receiving new water meters and MXUs again! In 2021, 150 meters and MXUs were replaced and well over 200 are slated for replacement this year in an effort to catch up. MXUs are radio signal devices which permit off-site meter reading via radio signals.

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Town staff is working with Colorado Main Street (COMS) to utilize technical assistance support to hire a contractor to develop construction level documents for the remaining improvements at Heritage Park per the *Ridgway Visitor Center & Heritage Park Master Plan*. The improvements include the new Visitor Center and new stand-alone restroom facility. COMS is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be issued in the weeks ahead.

### **IN-KIND SUPPORT FOR WETTERHORN HOMES PROJECT**

Our Public Works crew is in the process of installing the culvert at the intersection of N. Cora St. and Frederick St.

### **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

### **TOWN OF RIDGWAY Annual Clean Up Day**

(for Town residents only)

**Dumpsters will be provided - including one for scrap metal**

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm  
(or until filled)

**in the lot behind the library  
off Railroad Street**

**PLEASE NO DUMPING** of  
appliances, furniture, toxic liquids  
(ie: paint, stain, oil, etc.),  
tires, or commercial trash





assist with the Regional Grant Navigator Project. Town staff will meet with Colleen on April 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **COMMUNITY LAND TRUST CONFERENCE**

I will attend the Community Land Trust Conference taking place in Nathrop, Colorado on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about the conference and check out the session summaries, click [HERE](#).

### **TOURS OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Chris Bolane and I will give tours of the Water Treatment Plant to Ridgway Secondary School students (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes) on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The students are interested in learning about our watershed, what's in our water, and our treatment system.

### **PROPOSITION 123 IMPLEMENTATION**

Several hundred million dollars for affordable housing will become available in the second half of 2023 due to the enactment of Proposition 123 by Colorado's voters in 2022. This funding will be overseen by the Department of Local Affairs and the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade, and may be granted or loaned to the following types of organizations:

- Non-profits
- Community land trusts
- Private entities
- Local governments

Organizations are only eligible for this funding if their project or program take place in cities or counties that have committed to increasing their affordable housing stock above a baseline amount. Local Government Affordable Housing Commitments must be filed with the Division of Housing (DOH) to receive funding made available by Proposition 123. Municipalities make commitments on behalf of the entirety of their jurisdiction, while counties are responsible only for unincorporated areas. Entities will be ineligible for Proposition 123 funding if their project is located in, or program operates within, a municipality or unincorporated area of a county that has not filed, or is out of compliance with, their commitment -- even if the entity is otherwise eligible.

Once an interested local government has determined its baseline amount of affordable housing units, it can then plan its commitment to increase that number by 3% each year for a 3-year period ending on December 31, 2026. **Ultimately, DOH and its partners will be working with any interested local government to submit its commitment no later than the deadline established in Proposition 123, which is November 1, 2023.** Funding programs may be available sooner than the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, so DOH encourages local governments to commit as soon as possible. The dissemination of baseline data for a local government's consideration is the first step toward



achieving this important goal; additional information on the process through which commitments may be filed will be made available in the next several weeks.

### **RIDGWAY TO SEEK CANDIDATES FOR 2023-2024 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Town of Ridgway will soon start accepting applications from area youth for appointment to the 2023-2024 Town of Ridgway Youth Advisory Council. The Town will seek five high school youth to fill the available positions on the Youth Advisory Council. The Town Council aims to appoint members after candidates complete an application and interview with the Town Council during a formal Town Council meeting.

The application materials, which will include application submittal requirements and eligibility criteria, will be available [HERE](#).

### **CLERKS'S OFFICE UPDATE**

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Treasurer:

#### **Annual Clean Up Day**

The annual clean up day has been scheduled for Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and new this year a dumpster will be set exclusively for scrap metal, which will be taken to Recla Metals for recycling.

#### **Love Your Valley Festival**

The Love Your Valley Festival is set for Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Town and Ouray. This year's poster has been posted, and will be circulating soon.

#### **Concert Series**

There are a number of new sponsors for the Concert Series this year, and two have pledged at levels higher than the sponsorship levels we currently have. One in-kind sponsor is providing a discount on lodging for the bands, and two others are donating in-kind services for LYVF as noted above. All the bands have been booked and their names will be released in mid-May. Lodging for bands, and breweries for the beer tent have been set up. This year's series will feature a full food court with 7 vendors selling hot food. Tee shirt sales will begin during the Love Your Valley Festival.



### **UPDATE FROM THE BUILDING OFFICIAL**

From Mike Gill, Building Official:

Thursday, March 16 marked the second annual Building Futures Career Opportunity Day. The event was, once again, held at Friendship Hall and the Montrose County Fairgrounds. The event is a joint venture between International Code Council of Colorado, local construction companies, various construction trade subcontractors and area school districts. The event is open to sophomores and juniors from the area's high schools.

Last year saw around 350 students participate in the one-day event. 2023 brought approximately 500 students through the doors. The objective of the event is to display to students an alternative to a college degree. The construction industry and related industries are finding their workforce seriously depleted. The demand by employers for a younger, more diverse employee has reached a critical state in the nation as well as locally.

Around fifty vendors set up various displays and stations designed to provide visual and hands-on experiences of what they would experience should they decide to embark on a career in one of the many trades on display.

The students are bussed to the facility, where they register and are given a packet that includes hard hats and protective eyewear. From there they are divided into small groups and escorted to the various stations where they spend approximately 25 minutes. Each station offers a demonstration in which the students either listen to the services offered, the training required and most often the financial reward that awaits them. At most stations there are actual live demonstrations, in which the students are encouraged to participate. There are sheds being constructed, concrete being poured, masonry walls being built, electric wiring being installed, drywall hung and taped, gas lines installed, buildings being painted and so on.

The day's activities ended with a lunch provided to the students while they witnessed a display by the Colorado Department of Public Safety of a room that is protected by a fire suppression sprinkling system and one that is not. The display is built on a trailer with the two rooms built back-to-back. They ignited both rooms at the same time. They saw firsthand the effectiveness of a sprinkled room versus one that is not.

This year was a first time for students from Ridgway High School. Ten students participated, escorted by their own teachers. I believe it was a positive and rewarding experience for them and all that attended.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Tri-Agency Dinner** – April 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ouray County 4-H Event Center



- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – April 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Special Meeting** – April 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – April 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – April 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person and virtually via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – April 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee Meeting** – May 2, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – May 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – May 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer:

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN  
ALLIGATOR IN A VEST?



AN INVESTIGATOR.