



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** April 8, 2025  
**RE:** **Town Manager’s Report**

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**INTRODUCTION**

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

**RIDGWAY COMPLETES MICROGRID PROJECT AND ESTABLISHES COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUB FOR EXTREME WEATHER**

The Town of Ridgway is excited to announce that the Space to Create Resilience Hub Microgrid Project has been completed. The Project was a collaboration between the Town of Ridgway, local, not-for-profit electric cooperative, San Miguel Power Association (“SMPA”), Alternative Power Enterprises, Inc., and Artspace Projects, Inc.

Thanks to the new microgrid infrastructure, which includes battery storage and solar photovoltaics, the community space on the first floor, commonly known as the Decker Community Room, can now serve as a Community Resilience Hub during electric utility power outages caused by natural disasters or extreme weather events. The Project was made possible by Town General Fund dollars and a grant award, applied for and administered by SMPA, through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs’ (DOLA) Microgrids for Community Resilience Program. Alternative Power Enterprises was chosen by the Town through a competitive solicitation process to install the solar/storage microgrid emergency power system to provide electrical resilience to the 2,000 square foot Decker Community Room.





"We know the key to successfully navigating hazard events is preparedness. This Space to Create Resilience Hub will serve as a community center for day-to-day operations, plus shelter and vital infrastructure for key resources during a grid disruption. I am proud to have awarded over \$23 million in Microgrids for Community Resilience funds to strengthen communities like Ridgway through the continuity of critical operations," said Maria De Cambra, Executive Director, Department of Local Affairs.

This Community Resilience Hub is designed to be an accessible and equitable facility where community members can access essential resources and information during times of need. With the Project complete, this location will provide basic needs and supplies, shelter from the elements, access to power and device charging, and free wi-fi.

"This is an incredible accomplishment for the Town. The benefits provided by locally produced solar energy, right in the middle of downtown Ridgway, as well as the resiliency afforded by the implementation of the battery-supported microgrid system, are a phenomenal benefit to our community." said John I. Clark, mayor of Ridgway. "Sustainability and resiliency are key goals identified in the Town's Master Plan, and we're excited to have contributed to the achievement of one of our strategic goals: the reduction of locally produced greenhouse gasses through increased use of renewable energy and emerging technologies."

For questions about the project, contact Preston Neill, Town Manager at [pneill@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pneill@town.ridgway.co.us) or 970-626-5308, ext. 212.

### **ANNUAL STREET IMPROVEMENT OPERATIONS TO BEGIN MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

The Town will commence annual street improvement operations on May 6<sup>th</sup> and operations will run through May 20<sup>th</sup>. Operations will generally consist of adding gravel to the unpaved street sections that need to be built up and 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 will be released in the next few days.



### **BEAVER CREEK DIVERSION RESTORATION PROJECT WEBPAGE**

<https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/beaver-creek-diversion-restoration-project>



### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK (CMAR) FOR THE BEAVER CREEK DIVERSION RESTORATION PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway will receive proposals from qualified firms to provide Pre-Construction Procurement and Construction Services using a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) construction delivery method for the construction of the Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration Project. The selected CMAR will work with the Town and the Design Engineer throughout the duration of the project. The Town has contracted with RESPEC Engineering for the design phase services and is considered the Design Engineer for the design services and CMAR selection in this RFP. This project will be federally funded and must meet the requirements associated with that funding. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2025. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2025**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway will receive proposals from qualified, professional consultants to conduct a Housing Needs Assessment for the Town of Ridgway and Ouray County. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 2025. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE RIDGWAY ATHLETIC PARK BASEBALL FIELDS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway will receive proposals from qualified, professional consultants for architectural and engineering design services for the Ridgway Athletic Park Baseball Fields and Pickleball Courts. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 2025. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – HOUSING ADMINISTRATOR**

Ouray County, the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway are going to re-issue the Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking proposals for a Housing Administrator. The initial RFP was issued last month but was done without input from the Town or City. The RFP was lacking in specificity and clarity on things like proposal information, timeline and evaluation criteria. The new RFP is in the process of being drafted and is expected to be issued in the next few weeks.

### **NEW HIRES!**

- The Town has hired Justin Westbrook for the part-time Deputy position with the Ridgway Marshal's Office. Welcome, Justin!
- The Town has hired Mark Whiteman as a seasonal, part-time Parks employee. He will spearhead the maintenance of the landscape areas in Ridgway's streetscape project area. Welcome, Mark!



### **TOWN HIRING FOR PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE OPERATOR I, II, OR III POSITION**

The Town of Ridgway is seeking to fill the position of Public Works Maintenance Operator I, II, or III. This is a full-time, non-exempt position with an excellent benefit package. For more information, or to apply, visit <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/resources/job-opportunities>.

### **NOTICE OF VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given that an opening exists on the Town of Ridgway Planning Commission. Members must be registered voters residing within the Town limits and be able to attend a night meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. Members are compensated for meeting attendance. To apply please send a letter of interest to the Town Clerk at PO Box 10, Ridgway, CO 81432, or email to: [pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us) or submit at Town Hall. Submittal deadline is 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 28, 2025. Please call the Senior Planner at 626-5308x214 with any questions.

### **COLORADO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENT (CEPA)**

On Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Town staff will participate in a CEPA session at the 4H Event Center in Ridgway. This CEPA session is an opportunity for agencies around our region to come together and assess our capabilities, identify gaps, and strengthen our overall preparedness and response strategies. Participants will discuss FEMA's 32 core capabilities and their identified gaps, needs, challenges, and areas for improvement. Following the assessment, the county will receive a detailed report that can be utilized for preparedness activities.

### **ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY EVENT**

The Town will hold the [annual Cleanup Day event](#) on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</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. Alpine Bank is expected to hold their



electronic waste recycling event in conjunction with the Town's event, at the same location. Also, Ouray County Public Health Agency will have a booth on site during the event to raise awareness about the proper disposal of e-cigarettes and vapes, which should not be disposed of in regular trash due to their potential environmental impact and safety concerns. Ouray County Public Health representatives will have a disposal bin on site, distribute educational materials on safe vape disposal, and provide information on the new disposal bins they plan to set up across the region.



### **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

The Ridgway Town Council has committed to picking up trash and litter along Hwy 62 from milepost 20 to 22 a minimum of two times each year. The agreement with CDOT expires in January of 2026. The time has come to pinpoint a date and time to hold another clean up event this spring or summer!

### **BUILDING SCIENCE AND ENERGY CODE WORKSHOPS**

From Kendra Held, EcoAction Partners:

EcoAction Partners is hosting two identical Building Science & Energy Code Workshops for builders, contractors, architects, designers, engineers, and building officials. These workshops aim to educate our regional building community as we plan for adoption of state energy code requirements by January 2026 across San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan counties.

Join us for one of these full day workshops with Robby Schwarz on best practices for applying building science principles in design and construction to align with upcoming energy codes and our cold climate.

- Wednesday May 14th, 9am-5pm (AhHaa LaunchPad, Telluride)
- Thursday May 15th, 9am-5pm (Town Hall, Ridgway)

Please [RSVP using this google form](#) (or scan the QR code at right) and share with your contact lists. Space is limited, so sign up ASAP!



### **CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE**

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Treasurer:

The annual Love Your Valley Festival will be held in Hartwell Park on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 1:00 p.m.

The annual Ridgway Concert Series will feature five shows this year, every Thursday in July, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

### **PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

**From Angie Kemp, Senior Planner:**

**Community Conversation | Topic: Housing:** Thank you to everyone that was able to participate in our Community Conversation about housing! The outreach event was held at the Decker Community Room and open to all. We were happy to hear from so many residents and



stakeholders about the Town of Ridgway's Housing issues, discuss regional housing happenings, and to share housing information.

A special **Thank You** to the Home Trust of Ouray County, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA), Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Division of Housing, Rural Homes, Telluride Foundation, and Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans for being there and sharing resources with attendees.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

#### **Ouray County Calendar Collaboration:**

Since January 2025, the Calendar Collaboration team—Ashley Perkins (Ridgway Chamber), Ashley King (Weehawken/Sherbino), Kailey Rhoten (City of Ouray), and Tera Wick (Town of Ridgway)—has held three meetings to address the long-standing issue of disconnected community calendars. Ouray County representatives are also being engaged. The group is working toward proposing a centralized, easy-to-use, filterable, and visually engaging calendar that serves all of Ouray County. Pending approval, the goal is to launch a sustainable platform by early 2026, supported jointly by the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, and Ouray County. The project timeline includes research in spring 2025, proposal development over the summer, presentations to local governments in August, and a coordinated marketing launch in the first quarter of 2026, pending approval from leadership of all three government agencies.

#### **Upcoming Economic Vitality Workshops with Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI)**

This spring, the Town of Ridgway, in partnership with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce and with support from the Colorado Tourism Office, will host two virtual workshops in collaboration with Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI). These sessions are designed to engage local stakeholders in practical conversations about downtown economic development.

#### **Workshop Details:**

- Dates: Between May 19–30 (TBD)
- Format: Two 90-minute virtual sessions
- Audience: Open to the public; geared toward business/property owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders
- Facilitator: Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI), a statewide nonprofit specializing in downtown revitalization

#### **Workshop Purpose:**

These upcoming workshops will offer a collaborative space for Ridgway residents, business owners, and community leaders to explore strategies for strengthening the local economy—grounded in the values and goals outlined in the Town's Master Plan.



Designed to work within the community's existing capacity, the sessions will focus on realistic, place-based approaches to economic development that support business success, honor Ridgway's unique character, and reflect the community's long-term vision for a thriving and resilient downtown.

DCI will gather community data and provide a set of recommendations to inform both FUSE's long-range strategic planning and the Town's upcoming discussion on roles and goals for economic vitality and destination marketing.

**Key Related Dates:**

- June 5: FUSE Strategic Planning Retreat (with Matt Ashby)
- Summer Town Council Meeting: Presentation of DCI recommendations and FUSE strategic goals at Council to help inform Council discussion of economic development roles and goals.

This initiative supports FUSE's 2025 priority to explore economic development best practices and foster collaborative planning aligned with Ridgway's values.

**Ignited by FUSE Mini-Grants Now Open**

FUSE has launched the 2025 Ignited by FUSE Mini-Grant Program to support creative, community-driven projects that enhance Ridgway's downtown vitality. Grants are open to local artists, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and residents with ideas that align with FUSE's mission of fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community. For details and to apply, visit [www.ridgwayfuse.org](http://www.ridgwayfuse.org).

**First Fridays**

Town staff have been working to revitalize First Fridays, a monthly downtown event series. Staff created a landing page on the FUSE website, and coordinated a multi-channel marketing campaign, including a radio spot, newspaper ad, and social media promotion. In collaboration with local businesses, galleries, and creative organizations, staff have encouraged broad participation. First Fridays are intended to build community, celebrate local creativity, and stimulate downtown activity in alignment with the Town's economic vitality and creative district goals. [www.ridgwayfuse.org](http://www.ridgwayfuse.org)

**Ridgway Sidewalk Sale – Saturday, May 3**

Town staff coordinated with the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce to prepare for the upcoming Ridgway Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, May 3. As part of the effort, staff developed event branding, created a dedicated landing page on the FUSE website, and produced a radio spot and newspaper ad to promote the event. Staff also supported outreach to local businesses and ensured alignment with broader spring programming. The event is designed to increase foot traffic downtown, highlight local entrepreneurs, and support the Town's ongoing economic



vitality goals. Interested in participating as a business or vendor? Reach out to Ashley Perkins at the Ridgway Chamber: [director@ridgwaycolorado.com](mailto:director@ridgwaycolorado.com).

### **Save the Date: Mural Celebration – June 13**

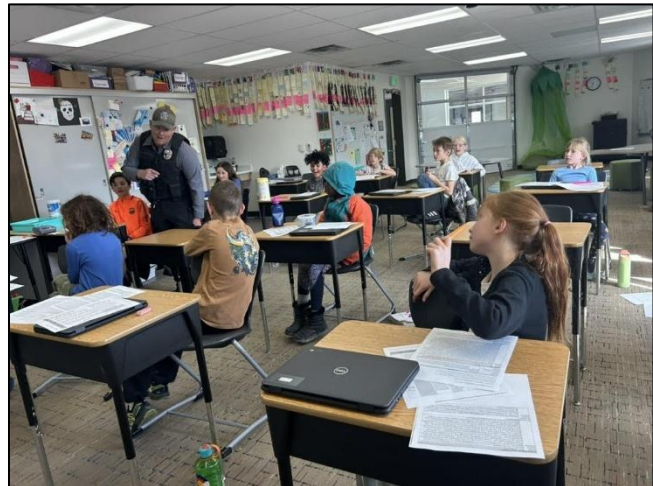
Town Council members are invited to join the community in celebrating Ridgway’s newest public art installation on Thursday, June 13! This Mural Celebration will feature mural artist Yulia Avgustinovich, with a public gathering, artist meet-and-greet, and light refreshments. The event will also serve as a FUSE Happy Hour and coincide with a visit from ArtSpace and other partners.

Please mark your calendars and join us in honoring Yulia’s work and the vibrant creativity shaping downtown Ridgway! More details to follow.

### **EXCERPT FROM RIDGWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNICATION (MARCH 28, 2025)**

From Alisha Perkovich, RES Office Manager:

We had Deputy Brannon Hasler and Officer Bernie Chism join for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade SEL. They shared with students tools they use to de-escalate a conflict and taught how communication skills, perspective taking and empathy help solve conflicts. We appreciated their time and expertise sharing how they solve problems/conflicts. Deputy Brannon Hasler appreciated the students being active listeners and brought them all in some starburst to thank them. Students appreciated learning from law enforcement.



### **OURAY COUNTY WASTEWATER DASHBOARD**

From Kristin Kelley, Ouray County Public Health Director:

Ouray County Public Health’s New 2025 Wastewater Testing initiative is just getting started and is already giving us important information. When the Public Health Emergency was declared over in May 2023, Colorado transitioned to a regional wastewater testing program. While regional testing is valuable, it left Ouray County with very limited access to data to determine which infectious diseases are making folks sick here locally. Since public health is no longer tracking individual cases of these illnesses, wastewater testing is one of the only windows into which infectious diseases are circulating in our community. Wastewater is a passive form of monitoring and, since viral particles in wastewater can even be detected before people start showing symptoms, wastewater surveillance testing is a great new tool for public health.





I would like to thank the Town of Ridgway for their collaboration and collecting the wastewater samples. Public Health sends the samples to the State CDPHE Laboratory for testing to determine the presence of Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza (Flu) viral particles. We are grateful to the CDPHE Wastewater and Data Teams for providing Ouray County with our own local data dashboard. As a small county, it is always nice when we can receive additional support from the state health department.

I hope that this data will be useful to community members, and we can incorporate this information into our everyday health and wellness decisions - not only for ourselves and our families but for our high-risk community members as well.

Click [HERE](#) to check out the Ouray County Wastewater Dashboard.

### **UPCOMING UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**

From Tanya Ishikawa, UWP Executive Director:

Friday, May 23: 9th Annual Fly-Fishing Film Tour and Benefit for the Uncompahgre River, 5 - 9 p.m., Million Roadhouse, Ridgway, CO <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/event/2025-benefit-for-the-uncompahgre-river-with-the-fly-fishing-film-tour/> (for shorter link, just use: <https://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/events/>)

RIGS Fly Shop and Telluride Angler have joined forces for the fourth year in a row to bring the 2025 Fly Fishing Film Tour to Ridgway and support the Uncompahgre River! 100% of the proceeds raised from this event will be donated to the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership for projects slated to improve river health and habitat within the Uncompahgre River Valley. Celebrate all things fly fishing with an array of short films from destinations around the world, all while raising awareness for the Uncompahgre River Watershed.

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Saturday, June 28: 17th Annual Ridgway RiverFest, Noon to 5 p.m., Rolland Park, Ridgway, CO <https://ridgwayriverfest.org/>

This annual festival offers an afternoon of family-friendly fun and education in celebration of the Uncompahgre River Watershed – free to festivalgoers from near and far with all-age river races, awards and prizes, information about local nature and outdoor recreation, live music, food, and beverages. It is a fundraiser for the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, providing awareness and funding for our rivers, water resources, the need for conservation and important water quality and riparian area monitoring and restoration activities.



## **RIDGWAY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATES**

From Ashley Perkins, Executive Director:

The RACC has updated our business directory listing on [www.ridgwaycolorado.com](http://www.ridgwaycolorado.com) and there is a [new local business submission](#) button available for new local establishments! Feel free to explore and find out what businesses are offering and what their current operating hours are. Listed businesses can easily update their information by contacting our web developer Daniel Baron at [danielbaron@joomladesigner.com](mailto:danielbaron@joomladesigner.com).

Are you interested in participating in this year's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Career and Involvement Fair set for Thursday, April 24, 2025 from 11am-12:15pm? Free to sign up by following our [form link here](#). Our deadline to register for this event is Wednesday, April 16, 2025. To become a sponsor you can [follow this link](#). Our deadline for sponsorship and to be a part of our promotion and marketing material moving forward is Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Sidewalk Sale is on its way!! RACC is partnering with Ridgway FUSE by helping to promote and market this year's event! We would like to take this moment to invite you to sign up today by [signing up here](#)! The Spring Sidewalk Sale will be held Saturday, May 3, 2025 from noon-5pm!

Remember to submit all business events to our [events submission page here](#) as well as follow our page to discover the most up to date events listing in the Ridgway community!

We would LOVE your feedback!! As decisions are to be made at the end of the summer regarding visitor lodging tax funds towards promotion and marketing for the Ridgway community, we would appreciate hearing your thoughts on the Ridgway Area Chamber's role in the community!! What have we been doing well and where are areas for improvements? Your feedback is important so please follow our [survey link here](#).

Looking to get more involved with Chamber efforts and looking for increased marketing and promotional opportunities? Join the Chamber today by [following our link here](#)!

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – April 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – April 10, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **FUSE Committee Meeting** – April 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Decker Room



- **Planning Commission Meeting** – April 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ouray County Housing Partners Meeting** – April 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Decker Room
- **Town Council Special Meeting** – April 29, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **First Friday!** – May 2, 2025
- **Ridgway Sidewalk Sale!** – May 3, 2025
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – May 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – May 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

#### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

From Terry Schuyler, Council member:

The *Dalai Lama* walks into a pizza joint and asks, can you make me one with everything?