



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** August 12, 2025  
**RE:** **Town Manager's Report**

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **REGIONAL HOUSING SURVEY NOW AVAILABLE**

The Town of Ridgway and Ouray County are conducting a Housing Survey to better understand how the local housing situation could be improved. Survey results will help community leaders identify appropriate housing policy changes based on the community's highest priorities. Results will also inform the development of a Housing Needs Assessment for the region.



Use the QR code at right or the following link to access the survey: [www.surveylegend.com/s/61i2](http://www.surveylegend.com/s/61i2). The survey should take only 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Your input is greatly appreciated!

For more information, please contact Angie Kemp, Senior Planner, at [akemp@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:akemp@town.ridgway.co.us) or 970-626-5308, ext. 214.

### **STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

The Town of Ridgway has followed the lead of Ouray County in implementing "Stage 2" fire restrictions that took effect at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. The Town Manager formally enacted these emergency restrictions on burning and fires within the Town and the restrictions shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further order of the Ridgway Town Council.

The following activities are currently prohibited in the Town of Ridgway:

- NO OPEN FIRES.
- No campfires, charcoal grills, wood-burning stoves, chimineas, tiki torches, or any open flames, even at private homes or campgrounds.





- Gas grills or fire pits are allowed if they can be turned on and off and only in areas cleared of flammable materials.
- No smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- No chainsaw, or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine, unless it has a working spark arresting device.
- No welding or torches unless in a cleared area at least 10 feet wide and a pressurized fire extinguisher must be on hand.
- No off-road driving or parking. Vehicles must stay on established roads, trails or parking areas unless there is no vegetation within 10 feet of the parking area.
- No explosives or fireworks.

Fire managers base decisions about fire restrictions on specific moisture measurements in vegetation and other risk factors such as predicted weather and current fire activity.

Violations of these restrictions can be reported to the Ridgway Marshal's Office at 970-626-5196 or by calling WestCo Dispatch at 970-249-9110.

For more fire-related information on Colorado's Western Slope please visit: <http://www.westslopefireinfo.com/>.

Community members and visitors are encouraged to sign-up for emergency notifications through Ouray County Alerts at <https://ouraycountyco.gov/434/Emergency-Notifications>.

#### **LIVE LIKE YOU LOVE IT – TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER OUTDOORS**

To check out some easy tips for conserving water outdoors, click [HERE](#).

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

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

#### **DUCTILE IRON PIPE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY**

On Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Ridgway Valley Enterprises, on behalf of the Town of Ridgway, began construction on the Ductile Iron Pipe Replacement Project.

The work will consist of the replacement of approximately 4,000 feet of 40-year-old ductile iron pipe with plastic pipe designed to serve the pressures and corrosivity of soils. The pipe replacement will start about 400 feet below the Ridgway Water Treatment Plant and extend about 4,000 feet to the pressure reducing station located at Moffat St. and S Amelia St.



Areas affected will include S Amelia St. from its intersection with Moffat St. to beyond its intersection with Sabeta Dr. The project work will begin on the south end of the project area near the Ridgway Water Treatment Plant and will proceed north from there.

Work will be performed Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The project will take approximately 10 weeks to complete.

Traffic restrictions will evolve with the project, but all efforts will be made to ensure that traffic is able to continuously flow along the north/south corridor of S Amelia Street through a controlled single lane through the duration of the project.

Property owners and tenants will be individually notified prior to any work beginning in front of their property that may temporarily inhibit access by vehicle. Similarly, notice will be provided at least 24 hours in advance of any halts in water service during changeover stages when the temporary water line is brought online.

Further updates will be provided as the project progresses. Please contact Steven Schroeder with the Ridgway Public Works Department at 970-729-0535 or [sschroeder@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:sschroeder@town.ridgway.co.us) with questions regarding this work. Alternatively, please call Ridgway Town Hall at 970-626-5308.

We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we complete this important community project!

#### **APPLICATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR 2026 TOWN OF RIDGWAY GRANT PROGRAM**

The Town of Ridgway is now accepting applications for the 2026 Town of Ridgway Community Grant Program. The Town welcomes applications from non-profit organizations seeking funding for programs, projects, services or activities that support the Town's community values and goals found within the Town of Ridgway Master Plan.

The application materials, which include application submission requirements, review criteria and the application schedule, are available at <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/town-of-ridgway-community-grant-program>. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

#### **SH62 BANNER STRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATE**

Last month, staff issued a Request for Quote soliciting quotes from qualified and experienced companies for the SH62 Banner Structure Project. The SH62 Banner Structure Project is for the construction of an over-the-highway banner over SH62 in Ridgway. It is intended to provide a



tool for the Town of Ridgway to advertise community events, welcome visitors to the community, and provide important information about Town initiatives. The project scope generally consists of delivery, set-up and construction for all labor, materials and services for constructing the over-the-highway banner structure, and all other necessary work.

Unfortunately, the Town did not receive any quotes/submittals by the stated deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Since that time, staff has contacted a number of local and regional contractors to gauge interest in the project and share the final, stamped plan set for the project. Staff hopes to 1) receive several quotes in the next few weeks, 2) take a recommendation to the Town Council at the September 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, and 3) get a contractor on board to complete the project by October 31<sup>st</sup>, which is the stated deadline on the Town's Special Use Permit from the Colorado Department of Transportation for this project.

#### **LEAD ACTION LEVEL EXCEEDANCE NOTICE**

As required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), in June 2025 we collected 20 samples and analyzed them for lead. The Town relies on various property owners, as required by WQCD, to assist with sampling efforts. The results of more than 10 percent of our samples exceeded the action level for lead. Our 90th percentile compliance value was 15.8 parts per billion (ppb), just above the 15 ppb lead action level.

Staff is confident that the exceedance is not due to a system-wide issue. It's worth noting that lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures are potential sources of lead in drinking water. Lead from service lines and lead plumbing and fixtures can dissolve or break off into water and end up at the faucet. This does not mean that every property that receives drinking water from us has lead in the drinking water. It does mean that you should understand how to reduce your exposure to lead through water.

The Town will follow up with additional public education to all our customers by August 31, 2025, as required by WQCD. To check out the full Lead Action Level Exceedance Notice, please click [HERE](#).

#### **UPDATE ON TOWN OF RIDGWAY V. DAVID C. SNEED, ET AL.**

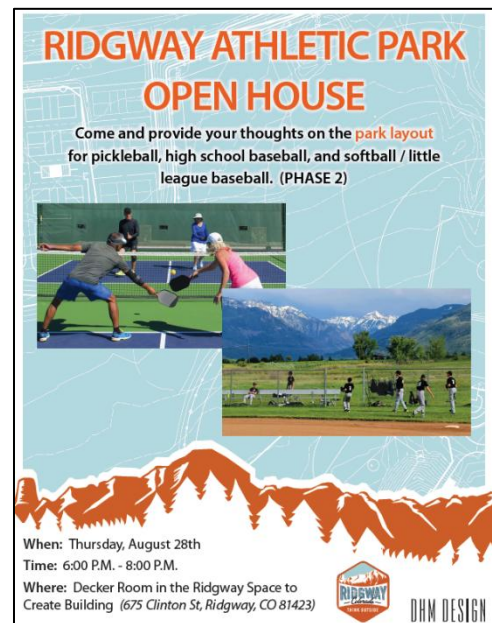
On July 28, 2025, District Court Judge D. Cory Jackson issued an Order granting the Motion for Immediate Possession of the 10' recreational trail easement at 539 Marion Overlook. In accordance with the Order, staff deposited a check for \$45,000 into the Registry of the Court. The Clerk of the Court accepted that amount and will retain it until further order. A valuation hearing will be set in the coming weeks and that will be where the final award of compensation or settlement amount will be determined. Please note that the deposited sum will constitute partial satisfaction of and offset the final award for compensation or settlement amount.



In the meantime, staff has contacted Buckhorn Engineering to have them survey and stake the recreational trail easement so that Public Works staff can proceed with building out the trail accordingly. The goal is to have the trail fully constructed before school begins later this month.

### **ATHLETIC PARK OPEN HOUSE**

DHM Design is hosting an Open House on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Decker Room. The purpose of the Open House is for park users to provide thoughts on the proposed layout for pickleball courts, the high school baseball field, and the softball/little league baseball field. DHM Design representatives will showcase various renderings of the new layout and will present the 30% level design of the courts and new fields.



### **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE ON THE ROAD WORKSHOP – RIDGWAY**

The Colorado Municipal League is bringing its popular Effective Governance workshop on the road to its members along the western slope by holding the workshop in the Decker Community Room on August 21<sup>st</sup>. This interactive workshop focuses on practical governance skills from staff/council relationships, ethics, liability, open meetings, leadership, grass roots advocacy and more. Don't miss out on the opportunity to engage with experts, exchange ideas, and empower your community. For more information, click [HERE](#). If you'd like to be registered for this workshop, please let me know ASAP. Thanks!

### **GRAFFITI ON THE TRESTLE BRIDGE**

Our community owes a big thank you to Chip Marlow and Jack Petrucci for their efforts to remediate the recent graffiti that was placed upon the trestle bridge on the Uncompahgre Riverway Trail.

### **REGIONAL GHG INVENTORY & FORECAST REPORT**

EcoAction Partners has finalized the regional GHG Inventory & Forecast Report. Click [HERE](#) to check it out!

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway contributed photos and stories to the Department of Local Affairs social media campaign honoring both Colorado's and the nation's milestone birthdays, the 150/250 Celebration.

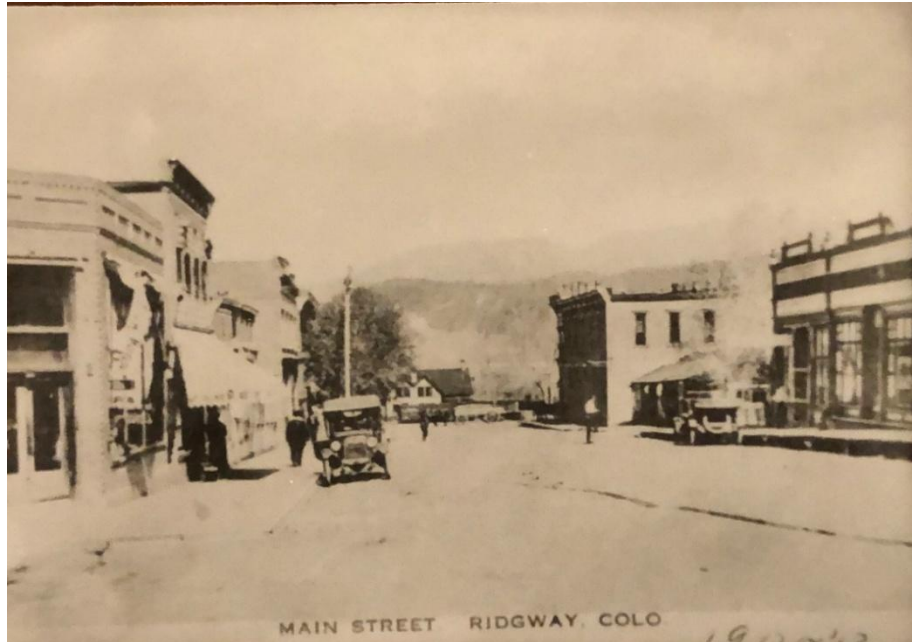




---

TOWN HALL PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432 | 970.626.5308 | [www.town.ridgway.co.us](http://www.town.ridgway.co.us)

---



**1912-1913 Ridgway Main Street**  
**Postcard Courtesy of Ouray County Ranch History Museum**



**July 2025 Ridgway Main Street.**  
**Photo credit: Victoria Gonzalez**



### **Fun Fact: Ridgway Has Grit!**

Ridgway has survived multiple threats to its existence with perseverance and resilience. From the silver crash of 1891–1893 to the 1929 stock market crash—which permanently closed the Ridgway Bank in 1931, after the news of the crash finally reached town—Ridgway has weathered tough times. One of the most significant challenges came between 1934 and 1971, when federal plans proposed flooding Ridgway to create the Ridgway Reservoir. In 1956, Congress even allocated funds for a feasibility study that would have wiped the town off the map. With the town’s future uncertain, investment and development largely stalled for nearly four decades, effectively freezing Ridgway in time. Ironically, the delay had preserved its historic charm, making the ranching community an ideal backdrop for Westerns like *True Grit* and *How the West Was Won* filmed here in the 1960s. In 1971, when the proposed reservoir site was finally shifted four miles north, Ridgway was able to move forward.

Drawn by the region’s stunning landscape and authentic character, designer and rancher Ralph Lauren established a presence here in the early 1980s, becoming one of several influential individuals to invest in the community’s future. His quiet but meaningful support for Ridgway’s schools helped bring them into the 21st century. In 1990, Western film star Dennis Weaver also made Ridgway his home, along with John Billings, the master craftsman who still creates the Grammy Awards from his studio on Main Street.

These creatives, entrepreneurs, and community-minded visionaries—alongside Ridgway’s original renegades—laid the foundation for what would officially become the Ridgway Main Street and Creative District in 2012.

### **DOLA Life on Main Street – Ridgway, CO Video**

<https://youtu.be/Qe8K2DiTjBo>

### **INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ROOFTOP SOLAR?**

From San Miguel Power Association:

More homeowners are exploring solar panels as an additional source of power for their homes. SMPA offers a billing mechanism known as net metering to compensate solar panel owners for any excess power sent back to the electric grid. Combined with a home battery, solar panels can help their owners save by using inexpensive solar energy during the Peak period (4PM to 9 PM). Also, SMPA offers rebates for Solar Photovoltaic panels and arrays. Click [HERE](#) to learn more!

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – August 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom



- **FUSE Committee Meeting** – August 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Decker Room
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – August 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Athletic Park Open House** – August 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Decker Room
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – September 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – September 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

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

I recently took a pole. And found that 100% of the people in the tent were angry when it collapsed.