



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** August 13, 2024  
**RE: Town Manager's Report**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **SENIOR PLANNER POSITION**

I'm excited to report that Angela Kemp has been hired to serve as Senior Planner for the Town of Ridgway! Her first day on the job will be Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Angela has been serving in a Senior Planner role with Stan Clauson Associates, Inc. since January 2023. She had been a Planner with Delta County before that. Angela will work hand in hand with TJ Dlubac and his team at Community Planning Strategies to deliver the full array of services required of our Community Development Department.

### **OURWAY ROUTE UPDATES**

**From Gary Clark, Executive Director at All Points Transit:**

Good afternoon,

I am writing to update you on a few changes to the OurWay route that we believe will positively impact both the route and overall rider satisfaction. Here are the changes implemented:

#### **Driver Replacement**

We noticed frequent delays on the route that were beyond what we would expect from the construction impacts alone. These delays were identified as being related to the behaviors of the morning driver on this route. Despite multiple attempts to address these issues, there was no improvement. Therefore, we have replaced this driver with someone who has an excellent track record with both riders and our company. We believe this change will significantly improve the punctuality and overall experience of the route.

#### **Target Stop**

Following our recent discussion, I asked the drivers of the OurWay route to test stopping at Target as a regular part of their route. Instead of turning back onto the highway via Rio Grande Ave., they used Wolverine Dr. to re-enter the highway to the south, avoiding traffic at the large intersection and eliminating any backtracking. After two weeks of this trial and with the improved route chosen by our drivers, we concluded that adding the Target stop as a regular stop would



be feasible. We will be adding the stop as a regular stop effective immediately. This change will provide a more viable Park and Ride option for commuters.

We are confident that these adjustments will enhance the efficiency and satisfaction of our riders. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes or if you have any additional changes you'd like to see, please reach out and let me know.

Thank you for your continued support!

### **TV AD FOR OURWAY COMMUTER ROUTE**

To check out a TV ad that has been developed for the OurWay Route, go to <https://vimeo.com/983143199?share=copy>. It features Mayor John Clark! It will be placed on CTV in the service area along with bonus airtime on KREX TV.

### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

National Night Out (NNO) was held on the evening of August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ouray County Fairgrounds & Event Center. NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Following last year's success, the three law enforcement agencies in Ouray County joined forces again to bring a combined event, complete with free food, live music, games, and a safety fair with regional partners and first responders. Check out some photos of the event below!



### **APPLICATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR 2025 TOWN OF RIDGWAY COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**

The Town of Ridgway is now accepting applications for the 2025 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 16th.

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).

### **NEW PARKING LOT AT ATHLETIC PARK COMPLETED**

Ridgway Valley Enterprises, Inc., on behalf of the Town of Ridgway, has completed construction of the new parking lot at the Ridgway Athletic Park! Thanks to John McCollum and his team at Ridgway Valley Enterprises for all their hard work.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS WITH CML**

#### **Effective Governance: On-the-Road**

August 16 in Sterling | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
August 21 in Glenwood Springs | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
August 29 in Durango | 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

These workshops bring a four-hour version of CML's Effective Governance training to a community near you. Topics include:

- Staff-council relations
- Ethics, liability, and conflicts of interest
- Media relations and social media
- Civility
- Grass roots advocacy

Participants also receive a link to a recording of the 2024 CML Annual Conference session on Finance and Budgeting for Municipalities 101.

For more information, or to register, visit [www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org).

### **Fall District Meetings**

The 2024 Fall District Meetings are an excellent opportunity for collaboration among municipalities. By working together local governments can share best practices, lessons learned, and communities can contribute to their development and solve common problems.

- September 4 | District 5 in Limon
- September 11 | District 1 in Brush! and District 4 in Cripple Creek
- September 12 | District 3 in Cherry Hills Village and District 13 in Cañon City



- September 17 | District 8 in L Jara
- September 18 | Districts 7/14 in La Veta and District 2 in Fort Collins
- September 19 | District 15 in Breckenridge
- **September 23 | District 10 in Ridgway**
- September 24 | District 9 in Ignacio
- September 25 | District 12 in Kremmling and District 6 in La Junta
- September 26 | District 11 in Grand Junction

***The District 10 Meeting will be held in the Decker Room. It would be great to have a big presence from Team Ridgway. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to be registered for the meeting.***

#### **OURAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE RELOCATES TO RIDGWAY**

Ouray County Public Health has relocated to a new facility in Ridgway, effective August 1. The new address is 185 Sherman Street, Unit 103; the phone number remains the same: 970-325-4670. All public health services offered at the Ouray location have transitioned to Ridgway, ensuring uninterrupted access to all services.

This move places Ouray County Public Health in the same building complex as Ouray County Human Services (formerly Social Services), enhancing convenience for community members who utilize both sets of services.

For the past many years, Ouray County Public Health has operated out of a building at 302 2nd Street in Ouray, leased from the Idarado Mine Company.

#### **OURAY COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN MEETINGS**

On Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, Ouray County Emergency Management will host two important meetings related to hazard mitigation, one to discuss the update of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and the other to discuss the update of the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Ouray County has hired JEO Consulting Group to help facilitate those meetings and help lead the planning processes.

An HMP is a community-driven, living document that assesses vulnerability to various natural and manmade hazards (e.g., flooding, drought, wildfire, etc.) and identifies mitigation strategies to reduce vulnerability to those hazards. Once a jurisdiction (county, community, school district, fire district, or cemetery board) is part of an approved plan, they become eligible for up to a 75% cost share from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a variety of projects listed in the plan. During this meeting, we will cover what an HMP is, roles in the planning process, and



information that we will need from participants and stakeholders. The meeting will start at 10:30am and will last approximately 1.5 hours. It can be attended in-person or virtually.

Following a short break for lunch, there will be a CWPP meeting from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. This meeting can also be attended in person or virtually. The CWPP assists the county and local fire districts in gathering resources, evaluating wildfire risk, describing local capabilities, and identifying strategies and actions to reduce overall vulnerability to wildfire events. Fire districts who participate in the plan will be eligible to apply for federal and state cost-share funds for vegetative fuels reduction and other hazard mitigation strategies.

You may attend one or both meetings depending on your interest in being a part of one or both planning processes. Information about both meetings can be found below:

- Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting  
Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am – Noon  
Location: Ouray County Event Center, 22739 US-550, Ridgway, CO 81432  
Or join online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83317988218>.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan Meeting  
Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Location: Ouray County Event Center, 22739 US-550, Ridgway, CO 81432  
Or join online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83317988218>.

Please RSVP by August 12<sup>th</sup> to Sam Otte ([sotte@jeo.com](mailto:sotte@jeo.com)).

### **UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP FIELD TRIPS**

To attend any of the events listed below, email [tanya@uncompahgrewatershed.org](mailto:tanya@uncompahgrewatershed.org).

- Rollans Park volunteer morning  
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024  
Ridgway by the Uncompahgre River
- Ridgway Reservoir Cleanup  
Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024  
Ridgway State Park, in collaboration with Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- Love Your Gorge  
Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024  
Join at Ouray Ice Park and the Uncompahgre River Gorge in Ouray.



## **RED MOUNTAIN ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY AND BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE** **From Alex Shelley, Communications Executive at SMPA:**

This message is to update all community stakeholders on progress of the Red Mountain Electrical Reliability and Broadband Improvement Project, and to apprise you of upcoming work and planned highway impacts.

After completing necessary vegetation management last year, SMPA contracted the first of three construction phases of the project, the re-construction of 4.5 miles of 44kV transmission line between the Idarado and Red Mountain electrical substations. The work includes the replacement of existing line / poles with new, upgraded structures for better service reliability.

Thus far, the old system has been removed, and about half of new structures are in place and ready to be strung with new wire. We are projecting completion of this phase by the end of September.

Our contractor has provided us with their schedule for work for August. Based on this, we will start enforcing the Ironton townsite closure order on Monday August 12<sup>th</sup>. We began notifying campers in the closure area this week along with posting laminated closure orders at the entry points to the closure area. On next Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, we will put up ropes/barriers and additional signage to attempt to keep the area clear so that work crews can start work on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

This will also be the week that we will start having the single lane alternating traffic closures on Hwy 550 at the locations where the line crosses Hwy 550. Per the CDOT permit, these impacts will be taking place from 6am-9am and 6pm-9pm.

We want you, your local businesses and members of your community to be aware of the highway impacts so that you can make what preparations are necessary. We appreciate your engagement and invite you to reply with any specific questions or concerns.

### **TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES**

Businesses can take advantage of two Federal tax incentives available to help cover costs of making access improvements for customers with disabilities:

- A tax credit for small businesses who remove access barriers from their facilities, provide accessible services, or take other steps to improve accessibility for customers with disabilities
- A tax deduction for businesses of all sizes that remove access barriers in their facilities or vehicles



A business that annually incurs eligible expenses to bring itself into compliance with the ADA may use these tax incentives every year. The incentives may be applied to a variety of expenditures; however, they may not be applied to the costs of new construction. All barrier removal must comply with applicable Federal accessibility standards.

### **Tax Credit**

Small businesses with 30 or fewer employees or total revenues of \$1 million or less can use the Disabled Access Credit (Internal Revenue Code, Section 44). Eligible small businesses may take a credit of up to \$5,000 (half of eligible expenses up to \$10,250, with no credit for the first \$250) to offset their costs for access, including barrier removal from their facilities (e.g., widening a doorway, installing a ramp), provision of accessibility services (e.g., sign language interpreters), provision of printed material in alternate formats (e.g., large-print, audio, Braille), and provision or modification of equipment.

### **Tax Deduction**

Businesses of all sizes may take advantage of this tax deduction. Under Internal Revenue Code, Section 190, businesses can take a business expense deduction of up to \$15,000 per year for costs of removing barriers in facilities or vehicles.

### **Tax Incentives in Combination**

These two incentives can be used together by eligible businesses if the expenditures qualify under both Sections 44 and 190. If a small business' expenses exceed \$10,250 for the maximum \$5,000 tax credit, then the deduction equals the difference between the total spent and the amount of the credit claimed.

For more information about these tax incentives and the ADA, call the Department of Justice ADA Information Line at:

800-514-0301 (voice)

800-514-0383 (TTY)

or visit the ADA Business Connection at: [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)

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

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



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE ARTSPACE RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE PUBLIC ART COMPONENT**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway, Colorado will accept proposals from experienced artists for design and implementation services for a mural on an exterior wall of a building in downtown Ridgway.



An electronic version of the proposal, submitted via email with the subject line “Request for Proposal for the Artspace Ridgway Space to Create Building Public Art Component”, will be received by the Town until 10:00 a.m., local time, on the 6th day of September, 2024, at which time all

proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any proposal received after the time stated above will be returned to the Proposer unopened. Emailed proposals shall be sent to:

Pam Kraft, Town Clerk, [pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pkraft@town.ridgway.co.us)

Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator, [twick@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:twick@town.ridgway.co.us)

Alternatively, proposers may submit printed proposals on 8.5”x11” paper in a sealed envelope labeled “Request for Proposal for the Artspace Ridgway Space to Create Building Public Art Component” to:

Town of Ridgway  
Town Clerk  
PO Box 10  
201 N Railroad Street  
Ridgway, CO 81432

Click [HERE](#) to view the full Request for Proposal.

The Town of Ridgway reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any irregularity in a proposal, to negotiate contract terms with the successful proposer, or to make award in such a manner as they may deem right and proper for the best interest of the Town of Ridgway.





### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – August 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Decker Community Room and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – August 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – August 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – September 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – September 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

From Polly Enochs Kroger, Council member:

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism. It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.