



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 6, 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.

TOWN UPDATES SNOW REMOVAL RULES

Property owners are reminded of their responsibility to remove snow and ice from sidewalks. Many members of our community highly value the ability to walk their neighborhoods and business areas, and to have accessible routes. Ignoring snow removal poses safety hazards, especially when conditions lead to a layer of ice.



In an effort to provide for more clear and stringent rules for snow and ice removal, the Ridgway Town Council recently adopted [Ordinance No. 05-2024](#). While private property owners continue to be responsible for removing snow and ice on sidewalks

abutting their property, the new rules require snow and ice to be removed from the abutting sidewalk within 24 hours after a snow event with less than 12 inches of accumulated snow or 48 hours after a snow event with more than 12 inches of accumulated snow. Removal of snow and ice means shoveling the sidewalk such that the snow accumulation is removed, and a traction agent is applied, such as sand or salt to melt ice accumulation, if necessary.

In the event the responsible person fails to cause snow and ice removal as required by the Ridgway Municipal Code, the Town of Ridgway may cause a written notice to be served on the responsible person. The notice shall require the responsible person to complete the snow and/or ice removal within a reasonable time, not to exceed 48 hours. If the responsible person so notified fails to remove the snow as required, the Town of Ridgway may cause the snow removal to meet the requirements of the Ridgway Municipal Code and charge the costs plus an additional administrative fee of up to \$25.00 to the responsible person.

Snow removal is a community effort that requires everyone’s patience and cooperation. For more information regarding policies and procedures in place when it snows in the Town of



Ridgway, please call 970-626-5308 or click [HERE](#). The Town of Ridgway greatly appreciates your patience and understanding this winter season!

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD LOAN

The Intergovernmental Loan Contract between the Town and the Colorado Water Conservation Board for the Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration project was executed on December 23, 2024!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – PLANNING AND DESIGN ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BEAVER CREEK DIVERSION RESTORATION PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway, Colorado will accept proposals from qualified, professional consultants for Planning and Design Engineering Services for design and conceptual development of the Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration Project.

Two paper copies and one electronic copy of the proposal in a sealed envelope clearly marked “Beaver Creek Diversion Restoration Project” and the name, address and phone number of the bidder must be received by Pam Kraft, Town Clerk at Ridgway Town Hall, 201 N. Railroad Street, or PO Box 10, Ridgway, CO 81432 by 4:00 pm on Thursday, January 30, 2025. Any proposals received after said date/time will be returned unopened.

Owner reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any and all informalities and to negotiate contract terms with the successful proposer, or to accept the proposal for the contract, which in Owner’s judgement best serves the interest of the Town of Ridgway. Owner reserves the right to disregard all non-conforming, non-responsive, or conditional proposals.

The full Request for Proposals (“RFP”) can be viewed [HERE](#).

By: Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

Publication: Ouray County Plaindealer – January 9, January 16, 2025

OURWAY SERVICE UPDATE

OurWay switched to winter hours starting on December 16th. OurWay now ends service at 8:00 p.m. - which means the last shuttle leaves Ouray at 7:00 p.m. For more information about the service, visit

<https://www.allpointstransit.com/ourway/> or call the All Points Transit office at 970-249-0128.

| OURWAY | |
|---|---|
| STOP NAME | VAN DEPARTS AT |
| MONTROSE TRANSFER LOT | 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM |
| TARGET (BUSTANG CONNECTION) | 8:05 AM 10:05 AM 12:05 PM 2:05 PM 4:05 PM 6:05 PM |
| RIDGWAY VISITOR'S CENTER | 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM |
| OURAY HOT SPRINGS POOL | 8:45 AM 10:45 AM 12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM |
| OURAY FIRE STATION (OR OURAY CITY HALL) | 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| RIDGWAY PALOMINO TRAIL (BUSTANG CONNECTION) | 9:10 AM 11:10 AM 1:10 PM 3:10 PM 5:10 PM 7:10 PM |



RIDGWAY REMINDS PET OWNERS OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Ridgway is a dog-friendly town, where dogs are welcome to play and socialize under proper supervision of their guardian. For everyone's safety, the Town of Ridgway is reminding people to follow the Town's leash laws, which apply to all dogs when off the owner's property.

The Ridgway Municipal Code ("RMC") defines a "mandatory leash area" where dogs must be on a leash. This area is bounded by Amelia Street, Moffat Street, Railroad Street, Otto Street (between Railroad and Cora Streets), Frederick Street (between Cora and Mary Streets), and Charles Street (Mary to Amelia Streets). The Uncompahgre River Trail, Rollans Park, any area posted for leash control only, and sporting events are also included in the "mandatory leash area." Click [HERE](#) to check out the Town's Leash Law Brochure, which includes a map of the Town's "mandatory leash area."



In all other areas of Town not bound by the mandatory leash area, dogs are required to be under voice and sight control, which includes all of the following: the dog returns to your side immediately upon a single command, the dog remains at your side regardless of any distractions, and the dog does not charge, chase or display aggression toward any person, dog, wildlife, livestock or other being.

Ridgway's leash laws (RMC Section 11-1-6, "Running at Large Prohibited"), are available to read online. Click [HERE](#) to check them out. Citations may be issued for violation of the Town's leash laws.

Leashes prevent your dog from chasing other animals or people and from getting lost. They provide a sense of safety for your pet, and it is much more difficult for them to get loose and run off if they become scared by a loud or strange noise. Dog bites often occur when dogs are feeling scared, insecure or defensive. Our town streets, sidewalks, parks and trails are enjoyed by all residents and visitors, not just dog owners.

If an unfamiliar dog approaches you, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that you:

- Stay still and be calm.
- Avoid direct eye contact with the dog.
- Do not panic, make loud noises or run.
- Say "no" or "go home" in a firm, deep voice and stand with the side of your body facing the dog.



- Slowly raise your hands to your neck with your elbows in, and wait for the dog to pass or slowly back away.

To report an issue, please contact the Ridgway Marshal's Office at 970-249-9110. For an emergency, please dial 911. For questions regarding these regulations or requests for additional information, please contact Preston Neill, Ridgway Town Manager, at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us or 970-626-5308, ext. 212.

GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON PROJECT UPDATE

We are in the final stages of installing the plumbing and getting the media in place for the new Granular Activated Carbon system! The pipe supports have finally arrived and will be installed this week. Filter Tech Systems is now scheduled to send representatives to the Water Treatment Plant the week of January 20th to get the system started up. Once the system comes online, the chlorine dioxide machine (color, taste, and odor pretreatment) will be removed from our water treatment process.



OURAY COUNTY MASTER PLAN – FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Ouray County Planning Commission is in the final stages of their review and update of the County Master Plan. The final public hearing for the purpose of formal adoption and certification will be held on January 8th, 6:00 - 8:00pm, at the 4-H Event Center in Ridgway. Public participation is strongly encouraged for the public hearing. Public comment will continue to be accepted up to and including in the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted to: mcastrodale@ourayco.gov or alternatively oral comments will be taken in the work session as well as the public hearing. Additional information including agendas and packet materials can be found at <https://klj.mysocialpinpoint.com/ouray-co>.

2025 CML MAYORS' SUMMIT

On January 23rd, Mayor Clark will attend a full-day CML workshop tailored exclusively for Colorado mayors. It's designed to provide practical insights and foster meaningful connections. Workshop sessions will explore leadership, governance, strategic planning, running effective and open meetings, building your political savvy and more.

COLORADO ADOPTS NATION-LEADING RULE TO CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM OIL AND GAS

On Dec. 20, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission adopted [a groundbreaking rule](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the state's oil and gas industry. The new rule addresses carbon dioxide emissions from [midstream fuel combustion equipment](#) such as engines, turbines, and heaters. The rule is the first-of-its-kind in the world.



“Midstream” operations include facilities that gather, compress, and process natural gas, such as compressor stations and processing plants. Midstream facilities have a 2030 deadline to meet greenhouse gas emissions limits for both the overall sector and their own company. Companies must also maintain these reduced emissions levels each year thereafter and meet additional emissions reduction targets beyond 2030.

By 2030, the new rule will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than one million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year compared to 2015 levels—equivalent to removing 240,571 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles from the road annually. The new rule also includes provisions to ensure the largest operators prioritize and complete onsite reductions in disproportionately impacted communities and/or the Front Range ozone non-attainment area, improving air quality where it is most needed.

The new rule aims to help Colorado meet its ambitious climate goals, including a target of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. For more information, click [HERE](#).

OURAY COUNTY ALERTS

Ouray County Alerts is used to communicate critical public safety topics including evacuations, wildfire, flooding, and other emergency notifications. All residents, visitors, and family members living in Ouray County are encouraged to sign up for alerts. You can register through the [registration portal](#).



During the registration process, you can choose the types of alerts you receive and how to receive them, including landline phone, cell phone, text/SMS message, and email. Please be sure to enter your physical address so that you will receive geo-targeted (location based) messages. If you do not enter a physical address, you risk missing critical messages.

MARSHAL’S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

WESTCO Board

In the November WESTCO Board meeting, the board chairman stepped down and Blaine Hall, Montrose PD Chief of Police, was voted in as chairman. I was voted in as vice chairman.

Statistics

We had another busy year in 2024. I will have stats and a year-end report ready for the February council meeting.



Shop with a Cop

Shop with a Cop was held at O Toy's in Ouray on December 14th. The Ridgway Marshal's Office, Ouray Police Department, and Ouray County Sheriff's Office shopped with 9 kids. A fun time was had by all.



CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE

Election

This year's annual election will fall on April 1st. During this election three Councilmember seats will become vacant. These seats are currently held by Polly Kroger, Beth Lakin and Russ Meyer. The nomination period will begin on January 27th and close on February 14th. All persons interested in running for office must obtain a nomination petition from the Town Clerk, and file it prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday February 14th.

San Juan Slam Fundraising Tournament

The Ridgway Pickleball Club's third annual San Juan Slam fundraising tournament will be held in the Athletic Park September 19th through the 21st.

Ridgway Concert Series

Planning has already begun for the 18th annual Ridgway Concert Series. There are five Thursdays in July this year, so there will be five shows.

Administrative Assistant Position

The Clerk's Department is in the process of soliciting applications for an Administrative Assistant to fill the position currently held by Karen Christian. Karen will be retiring in February after working 17 years for the Town.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

COMS Visit

The FUSE Creative Main Street Program will be hosting an annual virtual visit with Colorado Main Street (COMS) staff on January 21st. The meeting will focus on a review of our Main Street program's alignment with the national Main Street America accreditation standards. Ridgway is currently accredited at the highest level through both the state of Colorado and Main Street



America. In preparation for the COMS visit, the community initiatives facilitator will host two work sessions to review and discuss the accreditation standards. The meetings, open to the public, are on Monday, January 6th and Wednesday, January 8th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Decker Community Room.

Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce

The community initiatives facilitator and town manager met with the board and staff of the Ridgway Chamber of Commerce to discuss their professional services agreement (PSA) with the town of Ridgway, which expires December 2024. Town staff clarified the purpose of the PSA, the lodging tax dollars, and discussed the contracted role of the Chamber versus the role of the Ridgway FUSE Creative Main Street Program. Staff from both organizations agreed that further conversation with Town Council to help clarify the distinct and collaborative roles of the two programs would be beneficial. The Chamber agreed to propose some modified deliverables for Council consideration in a potential 2025 PSA. Staff anticipate a presentation from the Chamber in February 2025.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Planning Commission Meeting** – January 7, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – January 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – January 13, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – January 21, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Decker Community Room and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – January 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – January 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – February 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom



JOKE OF THE DAY

From Steven Schroeder, Public Works Maintenance Operator II:

What's the best way to watch a fly-fishing tournament?

Live stream

Bonus joke:

Doctor: "I have good news and bad news."

Me: "Okay...Hit me with the good news first."

Doctor: "You've got 24 hours to live."

Me: "That's good?! What's the bad news?"

Doctor: "I've been trying to reach you since yesterday."