



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: March 12, 2024
RE: **Town Manager’s Report**

INTRODUCTION

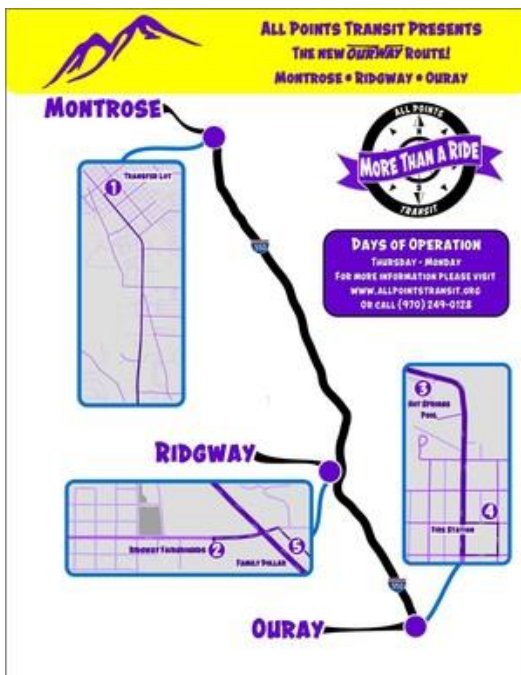
This monthly report serves as an update to the Town Council on key projects, activities, and community issues.

EIAF TIER II HEARING

Mayor John Clark, Joanne Fagan and I traveled to Manitou Springs on February 28th to make a presentation on the *Ductile Iron Water Line Replacement Project* to the State Energy and Mineral Impact Advisory Committee. Our attendance and participation was mandatory for our grant application to be considered. We’re hoping to hear from DOLA in the next few weeks about the outcome of our application. A special thank you goes out to Joanne and John for their efforts to support our application.

ALL POINTS TRANSIT BEGINS NEW ‘OURWAY’ TRANSIT ROUTE

All Points Transit has finally launched a new bus service from Montrose to Ridgway to Ouray. This route will run Thursday through Monday and is open to all. For more information on ride fares and the route schedule, visit <https://www.allpointstransit.com/ourway/>.



OURWAY

RIDE FARES

SINGLE RIDE ONE WAY	\$4
DAY PASS*	\$8
20-PUNCH PASS**	\$150

*DAY PASS INCLUDES UNLIMITED RIDES FOR THE DAY.
**A SINGLE PUNCH GETS YOU A REGULAR DAY PASS ON THE DAY OF THE PUNCH.

ROUTE SCHEDULE
THURSDAY - MONDAY
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

MONTROSE TRANSFER LOT	:00*
RIDGWAY FAIRGROUNDS	:30
HOT SPRINGS	:45
DOWNTOWN OURAY	:00
FAMILY DOLLAR (BUSTANG CONNECTION)	:10

*STARTING AT 8:00 AM, THE VEHICLE DEPARTS MONTROSE EVERY TWO HOURS.



ANNUAL STREET IMPROVEMENT OPERATIONS TO BEGIN APRIL 15TH

The Town will commence annual street improvement operations on April 15th. This year, annual street improvement operations will be split up into two segments. In the first segment, which will run from April 15th through April 26th, Public Works personnel will add gravel to the unpaved street sections that need to be built up. The second segment, which will run from May 13th through May 31st, will consist of Public Works personnel 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 can be viewed [HERE](#) and is as follows:

2024 Street Improvement Schedule

Add Gravel to Streets:

April 15	Charles St.
April 16	Cora St. & Clinton St.
April 17	N Amelia St. & S Amelia St.
April 18	S Amelia St. & County Road 5
April 19	Lower Sabeta Dr.
April 22	Railroad St.
April 23	Liddell Dr. & Vista Terrace
April 24-26	Vista Terrace

Street Grading Operations:

May 13	Solar Ranches – Chipeta Dr. & Tabernash Ln.
May 14	Solar Ranches – All of Sabeta Dr. & County Road 23
May 15	Liddell Dr. & Vista Terrace
May 16	Vista Terrace
May 17	Magnesium Chloride application on streets
May 20	Clinton St. & Railroad St.
May 21	Hyde St. & Laura St.
May 22	S Cora St. & Moffat St.
May 23	Charles St., Frederick St. & Otto St.
May 24	Elizabeth St. & Charlotte St.
May 29	S Amelia St. & County Road 5
May 30	Mary St. & N. Amelia St.
May 31	Magnesium Chloride application on streets

Motorists are asked to exercise extreme caution when driving in the area of a grading operation. Residents are asked to have vehicles removed from streets that are scheduled to be graded by 6:00 a.m. The Town of Ridgway greatly appreciates your patience and cooperation!



ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY EVENT

The Town will hold the annual Cleanup Day event on Saturday, April 20th 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. New this year will be a pile of mulch that will be made available to Ridgway residents on a first come, first served basis!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The Ridgway Town Council has committed to picking up trash and litter along Hwy 62 from milepost 20 to 22 for another two years! The commitment is to pick up litter a minimum of two times each year. The new agreement with CDOT expires in January of 2026. All participating group members will have to view the Spruce Up Colorado Volunteer Safety Video and Meth Lab Waste Recognition Video prior to any planned pick-ups. The time has come to pinpoint a date and time to hold another clean up event this spring or summer!

SPACE TO CREATE CAN ALSO BE A SPACE FOR RIDGWAY POWER RESILIENCY

From San Miguel Power Association:

Ridgway's latest arts-oriented live/workspace may soon be able to serve as a resilience hub should the town's power go out. This is thanks to a grant from the State of Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Microgrids for Community Resiliency (MCR) program.

To support the Town of Ridgway's resiliency goals, SMPA applied for the grant, which was awarded in the amount of \$46,900, for a proposed microgrid project for the town's Decker Community Room in the Space-to-Create building.

A microgrid is defined as a group of interconnected loads (like climate control and power outlets in the Decker Community Room of the Space-to-Create building) and distributed energy resources (like a battery-backed solar array on its rooftop) within clearly defined electrical boundaries. This complete electrical grid can act as a single controllable entity with respect to the containing grid, and, with battery backup, it can continue running on its own, if the main grid goes down.

"The MCR grants have given our membership a conduit towards improved resiliency planning and reliability resources. We value sharing the lead on ground-breaking projects like these and developing stronger partnerships with our member communities" Jeremy Fox, SMPA's Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Thanks to SMPA grant-writing efforts, additional State monies are also available for potential projects in Ridgway, Rico, Ophir and at SMPA facilities for internal communications purposes. Additionally, the Town of Silverton is utilizing a Federal prize money to explore feasibility of a



microgrid as part of their Silverton GOLD (Goal Of Less Dependency) initiative and Town of Silverton Compass Master Plan.

“We encourage preparedness among all our members and member communities and we’re thrilled that we could help the Town of Ridgway progress toward their power resiliency goals.”

— Jeremy Fox, SMPA’s Chief Operating Officer

UPDATE RE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

From Glenn Boyd, Ouray County Emergency Manager:

Ouray County published a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Ouray County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and an RFP for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Consultants were given until January 8, 2024, at 3:00 pm to submit a proposal. The proposed projects will create an update to the MHP for Ouray County that is set to expire in February 2025 and an update to the CWPP that was last updated in 2011. It was noted in the advertisement for the RFPs that the county would prefer one company to complete both of these tasks simultaneously.

The update of the current plan MHP is necessary to meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000, 44 CFR Part 201.6 and the most current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) “how-to” planning guidance. The updated plan will also meet the most current FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool requirements. In addition, the plan will be aligned with the 2023 State of Colorado Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ouray County’s current Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA in 2020 and will expire in February 2025. The expected timeline for revision includes a final draft submitted to FEMA by November 30, 2024.

The update of the current CWPP is necessary to meet the requirements specified in the Colorado State Forest Service’s (CSFS) “Minimum Standards for Developing [CWPPs],” dated November 13, 2009, as established by Senate Bill 09-001. Ouray County’s current Community Wildfire protection plan was adopted in 2011. The expected timeline for revision includes a final draft submitted to CSFS by April 30, 2025.

Ouray County received 4 proposals for the CWPP, one from JEO Consulting Group out of Longmont, Colorado (\$63,490.00), one from Synergy Disaster Recovery LLC out of Lafayette, Colorado (\$90,892.00), one from Jensen Hughes Inc. out of Colorado Springs, Colorado (\$110,300.00) and one from Chloeta out of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (\$99,833.82). Three of the 4 companies that bid for the CWPP also bid for the MHP: JEO Consulting Group (\$53,250.00), Synergy Disaster Recovery LLC. (\$49,424.00), and Chloeta (\$99,879.88).



A bid review committee (Committee) was developed to review the bids. The Committee consisted of representatives from Ouray County (County Manager, Emergency Manager, and Undersheriff), the City of Ouray (Finance Director), the Town of Ridgway (Town Manager), and the West Region Wildfire Council. The Committee reviewed the bids and decided to interview JEO Consulting Group and Synergy Disaster Recovery LLC. After the interviews, it was determined by the committee that JEO Consulting Group's bid meets or exceeds all requirements listed in the RFPs and unanimously recommended that Ouray County award the bid to JEO Consulting Group for both projects to be done simultaneously. JEO Consulting Group is familiar with Ouray County as they are currently doing our evacuation plan. They are also familiar with the regional state and federal partners we will need for the CWPP as they are in the process of updating Gunnison Counties CWPP.

Ouray County has received a grant up to \$100,000.00 from the USFS through the West Region Wildfire Council for the CWPP and has received a grant award through the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program from the State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management for up to \$89,974.89 plus a 10% local match for the MHP.

The Review Committee is recommending that the Board of County Commissioners award the Bid for both the Community Wildfire Protection Plan update and the Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan to JEO Consulting Group.

Thanks for your time,

R. Glenn Boyd

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR SERVICE LINE INVENTORY AND LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PLANNING

The Town has taken advantage of free technical assistance and hands-on support for the service line inventory (SLI) and lead service line replacement planning (LSLRP) process required by CDPHE. All community and non-transient, non-community water systems must develop an SLI to identify the materials of service lines connected to the public water distribution system. The SLI is due by October 16, 2024.

The Water Quality Control Division selected WSP in partnership with Sunrise Engineering to help public water systems with all aspects of the SLI and LSLRP. Staff held a kick-off meeting with representatives from these companies in December and has worked to provide these representatives with the necessary data and information to help them formulate an SLI on our behalf.

Last week, we received our initial SLI from WSP and Sunrise Engineering and we will now issue a survey to property owners whose properties are listed as "unknown". The purpose of the survey



is to determine the material of their water service lines with the hope of bringing our overall inventory number down and to ensure safe drinking water and to comply with new regulations.

GHG POLLUTION REDUCTION ROADMAP 2.0

Colorado released its first Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap (Roadmap) in January 2021. This Roadmap laid out an achievable pathway to meet the state’s science-based climate targets of 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030 and 90% by 2050 from 2005 levels. Colorado tracked the implementation of an identified list of Near-Term Actions, and by December 2022 had begun work or completed over 90% of the identified actions.

After a year-long process of public engagement and internal analysis, the state has released the updated Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap (“Roadmap 2.0”). Roadmap 2.0 includes an updated inventory of emissions and a new set of Near-Term Actions that will guide implementation in the state through 2026.

Roadmap 2.0 shows that without any new rules or laws beyond what is already underway as of the fall 2023, Colorado is projected to be more than 80% of the way to meeting its statutory goal of a 50% emissions reduction in 2030 from 2005 levels. In addition, as part of this Roadmap the state is committing to 49 additional Near-Term Actions that will drive emissions reductions in every sector.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

MARSHAL’S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

On 02-19-2024 to 02-23-2024 I attended FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute, which is a dynamic, intensive and challenging four and half day program specifically and uniquely designed to prepare law enforcement leaders for command level positions. The Command Leadership Institute focus is to provide real life contemporary, best practice strategies and techniques for those aspiring to command level assignments. Command Institute faculty members are passionate instructors who have executive level law enforcement and leadership experience. Command Leadership Institute students will be engaged in such topics as credibility, command discipline and liability, dealing with problem employees and leading change within an organization . The Command Leadership Institute is student-centered with high degree of student involvement.

There is a series of FBI-LEEDA, The Supervisor Leadership Institute which I had taken in 2018 after starting with the Marshal’s Office full-time, The Command Leadership Institute, and The Executive Leadership Institute. The series is a highly sought after training and not available in the area on a regular basis due to national demand. I was able to attend this training through the San



Luis Valley Law Enforcement Training Center, On a Colorado Police Officer Standard and Trainings Grant. Future department goals will be for me to finish the trilogy and get Sergeant Ryan Hanson through the series in the next few years.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator, and organized by strategy areas:

1. BUILD

- a. **Building Mural** – the FUSE Committee recommends approving the proposed agreement with Artspace to collaborate on implementing the planned mural on the Space to Create building.
- b. **Decker Community Room Coordinator** – We have received four applications for the contracted position of Decker Community room coordinator. Interviews will take place the week of March 25. Interview committee will include Tera Wick, Preston Neill, Guthrie Castle and Heather Delgado.
- c. **Art Exhibition Policies** – After public input was received from several residents at the FUSE meeting in February, the Decker Community Room art exhibition policies and application have been completed. The document, attached, is available on the FUSE website (www.ridgwayfuse.org/decker).
- d. **Decker Room Public Input** – Several residents have expressed the need for a more prominent sign to identify the Decker Room. This project will be taken up by the FUSE committee. A lively conversation was also held about the most attractive and practical method for hanging art, and whether a rail and hook system should be installed. No new systems will be purchased at this point.
- e. **Art Exhibits** – We have several art exhibits scheduled in the Decker Room for 2024, and still have some space for additional exhibitions. Artist Cie Hoover and Kane Scheidegger have agreed to loan their work until the next show is scheduled.
 - i. March and April: Open
 - ii. May: Henrik Haaland, Master Woodblock Printer
 - iii. June: Ouray County Pride Exhibit
 - iv. July: Open
 - v. August: Cie Hoover, wood-based art
 - vi. September: Open
 - vii. October: Open
 - viii. November: Ridgway Independent Film Festival
 - ix. December: Tentative, Holiday Arts Sale
 - x. 2025 - July, Ouray County Art Show
- f. **Access management system** – Bids have been solicited from Peak Alarm and Honk Key Lock and Safe to install magnetic locks that will connect to the access control hardware provided by Proximity Space, a co-working space company



headquartered in the Montrose/Ridgway area. The magnetic locks will be controlled via Proximity Space's software. This will streamline the space reservation and access process, freeing up staff administrative time and allowing for a more secure space. Proximity | Workspace Management Platform for Workplaces & Coworking.

2. CONNECT

- a. Tera Wick will attend the Boettcher Foundation Doers and Difference Makers Fellowship convening May 3, 4 and 5 in Alamosa, CO.
- b. Tera Wick will attend the Main Street America Summit on behalf of Ridgway May 6, 7 and 8 in Birmingham, Alabama
- c. Joan Chismire, Clifford Pastor, Arielle Bielak, Mayor John Clark, and Tera Wick plan to attend the Colorado Creative District convening, followed by the Colorado Creative Industries Summit May 8, 9 and 10 in Pueblo, CO
- d. A FUSE Happy Hour will be scheduled in May to share back learnings and resources from these events.

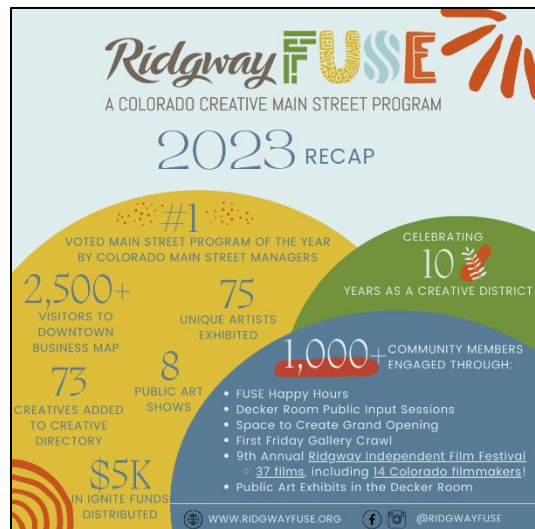
3. GATHER

a. Colorado Humanities Film - January 25, 2025

Colorado Humanities screened the film "Five States of Colorado" which was followed by community dialogue facilitated by Colorado Humanities trained facilitators, John Clark, and Arielle Bielak.

b. FUSE Happy Hour - January 23, 2024

- i. Approximately 30 area creatives and entrepreneurs gathered in the Decker Room to socialize and get updates about the accomplishments of the FUSE Creative Main Street program over the past year.
- ii. An Infographic of FUSE's accomplishments was developed by SHARE committee chair, Alison Ethridge (see image at right)
- iii. A photo slideshow was developed by the SHARE committee.



- c. **Ridgway Independent Film Festival 2023** was bigger and better than ever. With a great deal of leadership provided by RIFF Sub-Committee chaired by Arielle Bielak, the festival grew from a two-evening screening at one location, into a four-day,



multi-location event with twelve separate events that included an array of speakers, social networking events, an art installation, and multi-sensory educational outings. Sponsorships doubled from the previous year and a number of community partners joined the effort. The film festival, as it heads into its 10th year, promises to grow into a year-round effort that utilizes film as a catalyst to bring people together. <https://www.ridgwayfuse.org/riff>. RIFF 2023 included:

- i. 37 films shown (main venue screenings)
- ii. 14 Colorado films/filmmakers
- iii. 5 showings
- iv. 3 venues
- v. 3 educational programs
- vi. 3 social/networking opportunities
- vii. 1 exhibition opening
- viii. 2 exhibition spaces (Decker Community Room + ARTSPACE building East exterior wall)
- ix. 60 films + artworks in the exhibitions
- x. 363+ attendees across all events (not counting the number of people who viewed the exterior projections on ARTSPACE)

4. **SHARE**

- a. SHARE committee is working with Josef Mayfield on a gallery guide, and will be promoting First Friday Art Walk events June through September 2024.
- b. There are now 74 artists exhibited on the Creatives Directory site. www.ridgwayfuse.org/creativesdirectory
- c. New branding for the Creatives Directory was finalized by the SHARE committee. Graphic design work was done by Kylee Firlitt.

5. **ORGANIZE**

The FUSE committee is seeking new volunteers and accepting nominations for the chair and co-chair positions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – March 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – March 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting** – March 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom



- **Uncompahgre State of the River Event** – March 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ouray County 4H Events Center and Fairgrounds
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – March 26, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – March 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – April 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – April 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

From JT Thomas, Council member:

Dogs can't operate MRI machines, but catscan.

Bonus Joke

From Chris Bolane, Operator in Responsible Charge:

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.