




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

**INTRODUCTION**

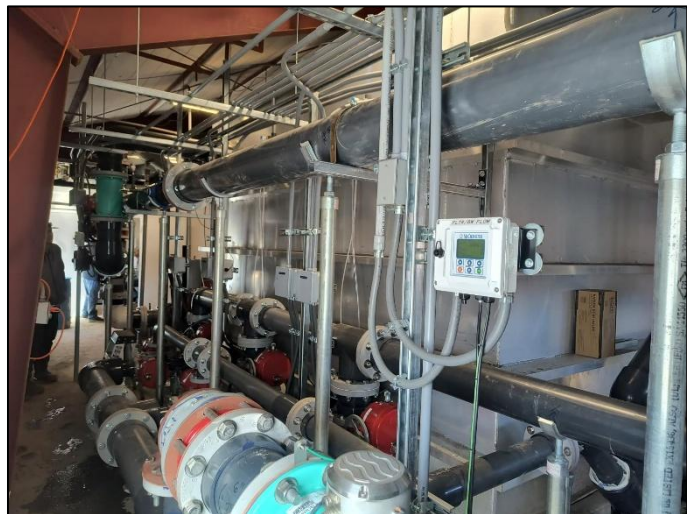
This monthly report serves as an update to the Town Council and community members on key projects, activities, and community issues.

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON HOUSING – MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>**

 <p><b>COMMUNITY CONVERSATION</b> <i>TOPIC: HOUSING</i> <b>WELCOME ALL!</b> WE NEED YOUR INPUT. JOIN US AT THE DECKER COMMUNITY ROOM 675 CLINTON ST</p>	<p><b>EVENT DATE</b></p> <p><b>MARCH 27TH 2025</b> <b>4PM- 8PM</b> THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL PRESENTATION. PLEASE COME WHEN YOU CAN!</p>	<p><b>EVENT DETAILS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAMILY-FRIENDLY OPEN HOUSE EVENT</li> <li>• HOUSING HAPPENINGS &amp; UPDATES IN RIDGWAY</li> <li>• HOUSING RESOURCES &amp; EDUCATION</li> <li>• HOUSING POLICY REVIEW</li> <li>• POLLS AND PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES</li> <li>• KID'S INPUT ACTIVITIES</li> <li>• SNACKS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED</li> </ul>
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**TOWN OF RIDGWAY GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) FILTER OPERATIONAL – GAC-TREATED WATER NOW ENTERING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

The Town of Ridgway is excited to announce that the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter has officially been brought online at the Town’s Water Treatment Plant. Starting at 2:30 p.m. today, any new water entering the distribution system will have been processed through the GAC filter.



The Town of Ridgway’s Water Treatment Plant currently utilizes membrane filtration and, for many years, had been applying chlorine dioxide for taste and odor benefits. The chlorine dioxide machine has been replaced with the GAC filter. A filter with GAC can remove certain chemicals and many organic contaminants from water, some of which produce odors or tastes to water. Granular activated carbon notably assists with the removal of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have become an increasing contaminant of concern for regulators. A GAC filtration system removes contaminants from the water supply by flowing water through the



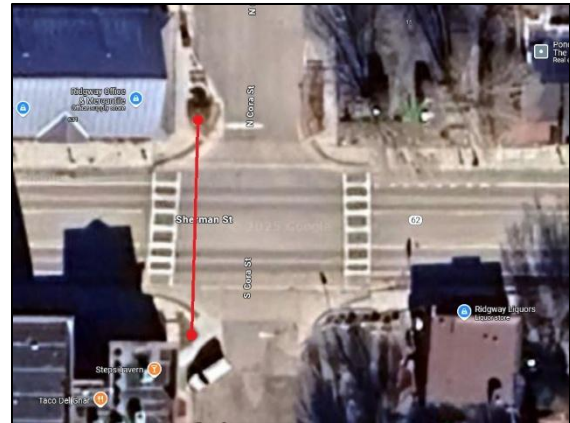
GAC material, which pulls the contaminants like PFAS out of the water and forces them to stick to the filtration media.

This project has been in progress for several years, received grant funding from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Program, and is an essential first step in addressing the Town's issues with emerging contaminants and unregulated chemicals in our drinking water. The Town is pleased to have taken the initiative to install this type of system.

For more detailed information on PFAS substances, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) PFAS webpage at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>. For more information about the Town's water treatment system, please contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at 970-626-5308, ext. 212 or [pneill@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pneill@town.ridgway.co.us).

#### **BANNER STRUCTURE OVER SH62/SHERMAN ST.**

Staff is in the process of working with Buckhorn Engineering to structurally engineer and design a banner structure over SH62/Sherman St. at its intersection with Cora St. We've pinpointed the location where the banner structure would be constructed, and it's roughly depicted in red in the image at right. The support poles and all other required elements of the banner structure need to fall outside of CDOT right-of-way and on Town-owned property, and they need to be fully engineered to meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials wind load requirements. In the month ahead, Buckhorn Engineering will conduct a geotechnical investigation at the site and pothole for utilities. Once the Town receives a design, it will be put out to bid so we can secure a contractor to construct the banner structure. Our aim is to have the banner structure in place by June 15.



#### **GRAVEL REMOVAL AND BANK STABILIZATION WORK COMPLETED IN UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER AT ROLLANS PARK**

Work has been completed on a gravel removal, channeling, and bank stabilization project in the section of the Uncompahgre River along Rollans Park in Ridgway. The purpose of the work was to ensure the proper flow of the Uncompahgre River by removing gravel buildup and adjusting flow lanes. Another aim of the project was to rebuild the west bank along the pedestrian path.

Work included excavating and moving river gravel from the pedestrian bridge area, starting from the concrete rock structure within the Uncompahgre River and proceeding north. Work also



included the rebuilding of the west bank using material from the east bank gravel bar, and removal of excess gravel material.

The work was necessary to meet the maintenance requirements of the Town's existing permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to protect the Rollans Park area and surrounding properties from damage caused by continued streambank erosion.

Work was completed by a third-party contractor with the assistance of personnel from the Town's Public Works Department. The work took about 7 days to complete.

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

On Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Town plans to issue a Request for Proposals seeking proposals from qualified, professional consultants to conduct a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) for the Town of Ridgway and Ouray County. The selected consultant will perform HNA services to assist the Town and County in achieving compliance with SB 24-174, through developing a strategy to assess current and future housing needs in the Town and County, analyzing data provided by staff, conducting market research and collecting additional data, developing methodologies to analyze data, conducting stakeholder engagement and coordinating with advisory groups, planning and coordinating with staff, and other methods. The selected consultant will consult the *Housing Needs Assessment Guide for Colorado Communities* that was issued in December 2024 to provide guidance on how to conduct a HNA, with a focus on state HNA requirements established by Senate Bill 24-174. The result should be a robust regional Housing Needs Assessment that addresses the unique needs of the two jurisdictions.

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

On Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Town plans to issue a Request for Proposals seeking proposals from qualified, professional consultants for architectural and engineering design services for the Ridgway Athletic Park Baseball Fields and Pickleball Courts.

The successful proposer will specialize in sports facility design and engineering and should be adept at engaging community members in the design process. The Town seeks proposals for design of new baseball fields and pickleball courts in general conformance with what is depicted in the Ridgway Athletic Park Master Plan.

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

Ouray County, the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway are seeking proposals for a Housing Administrator. The full Request for Proposals can be found at <https://ouraycountyco.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21164/Housing-Administrator-Request-for-Proposal-with-Attachments>. Proposals are due by 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025.



### **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 is aiming to 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!

### **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>.

### **NEW! RIDE SMART FROM MONTROSE TO TELLURIDE!**

From San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation:

Let's face it – the drive from Montrose to Telluride can be long, stressful and dangerous, especially in bad weather. That's where we come in! At SMART, we're all about giving you travel options that are safe, affordable and hassle-free. Do you live in Montrose or Ridgway and need a ride to Telluride for work or play? Do you live in the Telluride area and need a ride to Montrose at the end of the day? We're here for you.



### **From Montrose to Telluride (Mon-Fri)**

Here at SMART, we're launching a brand-new bus line leaving Montrose at 6 a.m. and arriving in Telluride at 8 a.m. The cost for this one-





way trip from Montrose to Telluride is only \$5! This is a substantial cost savings if you're doing this drive Monday-Friday!

### **Ridgway to Telluride (Mon-Fri)**

This route also has one quick stop in Ridgway and picks up riders at 6:40 a.m. The cost from Ridgway to Telluride is only \$4.

### **From Telluride to Montrose (Mon-Fri)**

At the end of the day, the bus leaves Telluride at 5 p.m. and arrives in Montrose around 7 p.m. It will drop riders off in Ridgway at 5:50 p.m. The cost for the trip to Ridgway is \$4 and the trip from Telluride to Montrose is \$5.

### **How to Pay**

Purchase tickets or ticket books from your driver or at the SMART office in Lawson Hill. Cash or checks are accepted.

### **Cost**

Montrose to Telluride: \$5 (one way)

Ridgway to Telluride: \$4 (one way)

Return trips are the same price.

Ticket books are \$36 for 40 tickets and each ticket is worth a dollar.

### **HOME TRUST'S PARKSIDE DUPLEX UNITS UNDER CONTRACT**

From Home Trust of Ouray County:

Our custom-built Parkside Duplex in Ridgway is now under contract with two income-qualified families, with move-in dates projected for April.

This project prevents the displacement of two families with long-standing ties to the community who fill valuable roles in the County's workforce, ensuring they can continue to live, work, and send their children to school in this same community.

We have so many people to thank for the success of our first affordable housing project for homebuyers, starting with our builder and subcontractors:

The project's construction was spearheaded by OnSight Construction, owned and operated by Clint Estes, a local builder with established relationships with subcontractors and suppliers, enabling the attainment of significant discounts and in-kind donations of materials and labor.



Clint's standard project management fee is 10% of the projected budget. He committed to this project for 6%, a significant reduction that reflects his genuine dedication and commitment to the project and our community. That, and he simply is a nice compassionate fella.

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

From Tanya Ishikawa, UWP Executive Director:

Tuesday, March 18: Colorado River District's Uncompahgre River State of the River Meeting 2025, 6-8 p.m., Sherbino Theater in Ridgway, CO <https://www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/state-of-the-river-meetings-2025/>

The Colorado River District's State of the River meetings are a spring tradition in Western Colorado, bringing communities together to discuss the most pressing water issues facing our region. These free public events provide valuable insights into river forecasts, local water projects, and key challenges impacting West Slope water users. Presented in partnership with Ouray County Water Users Association and Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership.

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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.



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – March 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – March 18, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Decker Community Room and virtually via Zoom
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – March 19, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – March 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Community Conversation on Housing/Housing Open House** – March 27, 2025 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Decker Room
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – April 1, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – April 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

From Steven Schroeder, PW Maintenance Operator II:

Which U.S. state is famous for its extra-small soft drinks?

Minnesota