



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: May 7, 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.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP EVENT

The Town Council hosted another Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Event from mileposts 20 to 22 on Highway 62 on Saturday, May 4th. Kudos to everyone who participated!

TOWN OF RIDGWAY GROWING WATER SMART TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL

The Town recently submitted a proposal to the Sonoran Institute’s Growing Water Smart Program for \$10,000 in technical assistance. Our project, as identified in the Town of Ridgway Growing Water Smart Action Plan that was developed in October 2023, is to launch a turf replacement initiative in Hartwell Park. It will be called the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project. The new landscaping, planned for a specific section on the east side of Hartwell Park that is generally not used primarily for functional turf (pictured and outlined in red at right), is intended to reduce the Town’s water use and set an example for other property owners, showing the Town of Ridgway’s commitment to water conservation. In addition, it provides an educational space and de facto demonstration area to showcase plants and design concepts that use less water than the traditional landscape.

This project, which integrates land use and water to improve community resiliency, is





largely driven by our community’s dedication and attention to water resource management and the health of our watershed. We live in a community full of very engaged residents that help our decision makers to ensure that the focus remains on water management, especially in anticipation of climate adjusted natural flows representative of future climate change conditions.

This pilot project would be a first step in helping the Town to achieve the goal of reducing landscape water usage on municipal turf with the outcome of widespread municipal turf replacement. In turn, the hope is that this will help encourage residential property owners to modify their landscapes with the ultimate goal of reducing residential water usage.

We hope to hear back from the Sonoran Institute by mid-May.

RIDGWAY YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by:



RIDGWAY COMMUNITY PICKLEBALL Tournament

Ridgway Youth Town Council

MAY 18th • 9 am – 12 pm
 RIDGWAY ATHLETIC PARK • TENNIS COURTS
 AGES: 5 years to Adult • ALL PLAYERS & SKILL LEVELS WELCOME



REGISTER HERE:
RidgwayPickleball.org/event-5711587
 OR
 Use the QR code below.

*** Paddles will be provided for Skill Challenge ages 9 and under only!**

TOURNAMENT EVENTS:

SKILL CHALLENGE: 10:30–11:00am
 \$5.00 per participant • Ages 9 & under only.*

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT: \$15.00 per participant
 Luck of the draw. You will be randomly assigned a partner. New partner each game – 3 games per round.

AGES 10–13 & AGES 14–18 BRACKET: 9:00–10:00am
AGES 19 AND OVER BRACKET: 11:00am–12:00pm

Questions?
 Contact: Jo Anne Brooks
 (909) 910-3813
romerohawk@aol.com

Fundraising Event
 All proceeds will go to benefit two local non-profit 501 (c)(3) organizations – the Ridgway Pickleball Club to support dedicated pickleball court construction and the Dolphin House Child Advocacy Center.

SCAN TO REGISTER







GREEN STREET PARK MASTER PLAN SURVEY AVAILABLE THROUGH MAY 10TH

The Town of Ridgway has initiated a master planning process for the Green Street Park and your participation is essential! Please take a few minutes to check out the Green Street Sustainability Park website and fill out an online survey at <https://readymag.website/u4242466480/4705864/>. Tell us about your needs and priorities for the future of the Green Street Sustainability Park!

For more information, please contact Preston Neill, Town Manager, at pneill@town.ridgway.co.us or 970- 626-5308, ext. 212.

PHOTOS FROM GREEN STREET PARK MASTER PLANNING MEETING ON APRIL 18TH





NEW WEAVER PARK FENCE

The new fence in Weaver Park has been installed. A special thanks goes out to Bobby Barnes and Kaylor Fencing for their work on the project.



STREETSCAPE LANDSCAPING

The Town has contracted with Horizon Maintenance for maintenance of the landscape areas in Ridgway’s streetscape project area.

ANNUAL STREET IMPROVEMENT OPERATIONS UNDERWAY

The Town began annual street improvement operations on April 15th, and the process will continue through May 31st. The street grading consists of 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:

TOWN OF RIDGWAY
Street Improvement Schedule 2024

STREET GRADING OPERATIONS

MAY 13	SOLAR RANCHES – CHIPETA DR. & TABERNASH LN.
MAY 14	SOLAR RANCHES – ALL OF SABETA & COUNTY ROAD 23
MAY 15	LIDDELL DR. & VISTA TERRACE
MAY 16	VISTA TERRACE
MAY 17	MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE APPLICATION ON STREETS
MAY 20	CLINTON 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

*Please have vehicles removed from streets by 6:00 a.m.
Thank you for your cooperation!*





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!

CURBSIDE BRANCH COLLECTION SERVICE

The Town of Ridgway rolled out its curbside branch collection service starting on May 1st. From May through September, collection will be conducted by Public Works staff on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The criteria for collection remain the same as prior years and are as follows:

- Branches between 1" and 4" in diameter and 8 ft. in length will be accepted.
- No willow branches, sage brush, yard clippings, twigs, noxious weeds, vegetation with thorns, dirt, trash, kitchen waste or anything contained in bags will be accepted.
- Branches must be placed in the front yard by the street, not the alley, before 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Please note that this service is intended to facilitate small routine maintenance by homeowners. Professional arborist work, commercial properties, HOAs, and entire tree removals are not eligible for branch collection.

TRI-AGENCY DINNER

The Town of Ridgway invites you to the

Tri-Agency Dinner

Thursday, June 27, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.
The Decker Room
675 Clinton Street, Ridgway, CO 81432

Social | 5:30 p.m.
Introductions, Dinner and Presentations | 6:00 p.m.

RSVP to Becky
bschmitz@town.ridgway.co.us



JOINT WORK SESSION WITH OURAY COUNTY AND CITY OF OURAY

A joint work session between the Ridgway Town Council, the Ouray City Council, and the Board of Ouray County Commissioners is scheduled for June 25th at 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the establishment of a regional housing committee and other items related to affordable housing in our region.

OURAY COUNTY EVACUATION PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Ouray County, the Town of Ridgway and the City of Ouray are working together on a comprehensive emergency evacuation plan. Learn more at an upcoming Open House on Monday, May 13th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ouray Community Center. Learn about what an evacuation plan is and how you can be more prepared in an emergency.

DESTINATION STEWARDSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN

The Colorado Tourism Office's [draft statewide Destination Stewardship Strategic Plan](#) is now open for public feedback until this Friday, May 10.

To ensure that the Draft Statewide Strategic Plan reflects as many Colorado voices as possible, the CTO encourages all tourism stakeholders and residents to share their thoughts:




- [Link](#) to Draft Statewide Destination Stewardship Strategic Plan
- [Watch a webinar recording](#) that gives background on the Draft Statewide Strategic Plan
- Review the plan and [provide feedback](#) by May 10, 2024

**OURAY COUNTY
EMERGENCY
EVACUATION PLAN
OPEN HOUSE**

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- What is an evacuation plan?
- How can you be more prepared?
- And more!

MONDAY MAY 13
Ouray Community Center
320 6th Ave. Ouray
4:30PM - 7:30PM

UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SCOPING REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The Bureau of Land Management would like to announce the availability of the final public scoping report for the Uncompahgre Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The report can be accessed on the project website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026528/510>. Although there is no comment period associated with the publication of the scoping report the public will be afforded a review of the draft RMP/draft EIS, expected to be published and available for comment in November/December 2024.



CLERK'S OFFICE UPATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer:

Love Your Valley Festival

The annual Love Your Valley Festival will be held on Saturday May 18th in Hartwell Park from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. The event is free with live music by Joint Point. Participants over 21 can pay a \$25 fee and receive a tasting glass to sample micro-brews from 16 breweries. The festival is a fundraiser for the free Ridgway Concert Series.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Firehouse Project Update

From Mike Gill, Building Official:

“What’s it gonna be?” “What all is in there?” “When is it going to be done?” These are all good questions that deserve an answer. Curiosity has mounted ever since the groundbreaking more than two years ago at the corner of Lena St. and Clinton St. The Firehouse Project, that has been front and center of Ridgway’s downtown for the past two years, is coming to completion.

Although the project appears to be one big building, there are numerous tenants involved in the scope of work. There are residential units, parking garages, carports, an events center, a restaurant, an outdoor seating area complete with its own bar and a huge greenhouse. It’s an amazing multiuse facility.

The complexity of construction along with the various governmental agencies, that have authoritative control of the specifics of the work being done, will prevent the project from being completed in its entirety until midsummer. The plan is for the general contractor, FCI, to complete partial demobilization by the Memorial Day Weekend. This will mean removing the fences from the Lena St. parking area and allowing partial pedestrian traffic along the Lena St. walkway. Portions of the building will be completed and that will allow occupation of those units. Clinton St. will still house the remains of materials and equipment necessary to complete other areas of construction. The Clinton Street walkway may or may not be opened up to pedestrian traffic at the same time but that will depend largely on the progress of the landscaping.

All in all, it will be great to reclaim that intersection and most important to enjoy the services of the ultra-deluxe facility.

Code Updates

From Max Garcia, Planner, Community Planning Strategies:

Community Planning Strategies (CPS) kicked off additional updates to Ridgway Municipal Code Chapter 7 as discussed during the 2023 updates to Chapter 7. The first round of updates includes



four elements: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Parking, Affordable Housing, and a land use analysis. The Planning Commission has been holding monthly workshops to review proposed regulations, best practices research, and analyses. The status of each project is summarized below.

1. **ADU Code Update:** The current ADU standards are pretty good. The Planning Commission asked CPS to think outside the box on standards. At the April 30th Planning Commission meeting, the group received a second draft of the code document. This draft was provided alongside ADU diagrams representing potential lot layouts to further understand the resulting density of this code language. The code draft has several concepts that are being vetted for suitability and we anticipate a couple more rounds of engagement with the Planning Commission prior to adoption. Generally, the updates are addressing:
 - a. General provisions and encouraging sustainable building types.
 - b. Dimensional standards and gentle increases in density.
 - c. Incentives for affordable housing and sustainable construction methods.
 - d. The review process and associated fees.
 - e. Owner occupancy and the impact of short-term rentals.

2. **Parking Code Update:** At the April 30th Planning Commission meeting, Planning Commission received a second draft of the code document. The code draft has a couple remaining concepts that are being vetted for suitability; however, the next updates will focus on minor edits and QA/QC. Of all the code elements under review, the parking code is closest to adoption. Generally, the updates are addressing:
 - a. Overall reduction in required parking using a market-driven approach.
 - b. Encouraging alternative modes of transportation.
 - c. Consideration of shared parking alternatives to efficiently use existing parking.
 - d. Establishing electric vehicle parking requirements.
 - e. Introducing pragmatic site plan requirements, such as stacking requirements.

3. **Affordable Housing Code Update:** CPS has begun the research, but no draft or code update has been provided. The research focuses on evaluating affordable housing provisions of other Rocky Mountain communities, especially those pertaining to inclusionary housing fee-in-lieu options and mitigation fees.

4. **Land Use Portfolio:** CPS has partnered with Elliot Weiss of Economies of Elliot to complete a socioeconomic report that evaluates the relationship between the current land use mix and market demand based on land use. The first draft of the report was provided at the April 30th Planning Commission meeting and will be updated based on Planning Commission feedback and further evaluation of available data.

The intent is to adopt code updates by mid-late summer of 2024.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – May 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ouray County Evacuation Plan Open House** – May 13, 2024 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ouray Community Center
- **Wanda’s Retirement Party!** – May 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Visit from Colorado Main Street Staff/FUSE Happy Hour** – May 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – May 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person and on Zoom
- **CML District 10 Spring Meeting** – May 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in Montrose
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – May 28, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – June 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – Date TBD at 3:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – June 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Green Street Sustainability Park Master Plan Public Meeting** – June 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall

JOKE OF THE DAY

Customer: Waiter, my soup is cold.

Waiter: It’s gazpacho.

Customer: Gazpacho, my soup is cold.