



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** October 11, 2023  
**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.

**RIDGWAY RIDE AND DRIVE EVENT A SUCCESS**

Ridgway hosted an Electric Vehicle (EV) Ride and Drive event on September 16<sup>th</sup> in the Hartwell Park parking lot. Attendees had the opportunity to drive EVs, speak with EV owners and learn about regional efforts to support EV infrastructure. A huge shoutout goes out to Dave Jones for his work spearheading the organization of the event, as well as the other members of the Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board for their efforts. Below are a few photos from the event.





### **AED INSTALLED AT ATHLETIC PARK PAVILION**



### **SPIREK PAVILION ROOF BEING REPAIRED**

The Town has hired a contractor to repair the roof over the restrooms at the Spirek Pavilion. The repairs should be completed within the next week.

### **ATHLETIC PARK CONCEPT PLANS STILL AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Three concept plan options for the Ridgway Athletic Park are available for public viewing and public comment through October 20, 2023. They are available at

<https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/>.

Comments should be directed to [pneill@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:pneill@town.ridgway.co.us). DHM Design was selected by the Town, after a competitive solicitation process, to provide a plan, process, and approach for the public engagement and master planning for the Ridgway Athletic Park. So far, two public meetings have been held as part of this initiative.

Following the current public comment period, DHM Design will develop a priority list of elements and facilities, as well as a final preferred layout, based on all input received in order to meet the collective desires of the community.





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

### **OURAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH POTLUCK DINNER**

Ouray County Communities that Care is partnering with the Ridgway Ouray Community Council to present a fall-themed Potluck Dinner on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the 4H Center in Ridgway. If you're interested in attending, RSVP to [alex@voyageryouth.org](mailto:alex@voyageryouth.org).

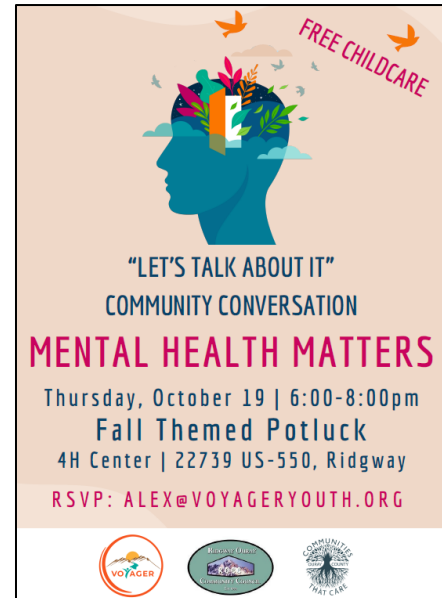
### **VSaaS PROJECT UPDATE**

I'm excited to announce that the new high-end, full-featured, cybersecurity-protected SCADA system (VSaaS platform) for our Water Treatment Plant has been installed and fully implemented. VSaaS is a management service and support package from Browns Hill, the leading full-service water and wastewater system integrator in Colorado. Browns Hill offers field service, engineering, programming, and a complete portfolio of electrical, controls, and automation products and services. VsaaS was built with redundancy and uptime being the most critical aspect. They continuously monitor the stability, cybersecurity, and performance of VsaaS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In addition to the SCADA system, Browns Hill offers full reporting, remote access, mobile device remote access, unlimited trending, voice alarming callouts, text message alarming callouts, emailed reports and alarms, full user and call out scheduling, audit logs, and user-based access and control. These items will help us to better run and react to change at our Water Treatment Plant and give us the tools to analyze and operate more efficiently.

A huge shoutout goes out to Chris Bolane, our ORC, for all his work collaborating with Browns Hill representatives to get the new VSaaS platform up and running.

### **TOWN STAFF TO MEET WITH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION RE COUNTY MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Ouray County is undertaking an update to its Master Plan and has put considerable effort into learning what people in the county think is important. The administrators from Ridgway and Ouray have been invited to meet with the Ouray County Planning Commission in a work session on October 19<sup>th</sup> to talk through a series of questions related to anticipated growth and capacity for growth.





### **CYBERSECURITY SEMINAR**

On September 20, I attended a CIRSA-hosted seminar in Ouray titled, “Demystifying Cybersecurity for Non-Technical Personnel”. During the seminar, the presenters explained what basic cybersecurity precautions are essential in 2023 and beyond. They showed how CIRSA members can implement, train, and manage these processes without breaking the bank. Presenters gave step-by-step demonstrations of common security tools and precautions.

### **GROWING WATER SMART WORKSHOP**

Back in August, staff prepared an application to participate in the Growing Water Smart Workshop in October, and I’m happy to announce that Ridgway was selected to attend! The Growing Water Smart Workshop brings key community decisionmakers on water and land use planning together to collaborate on sustainable water use. The workshop utilizes a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy implementation tools to help community teams realize their water efficiency, watershed health, and water resilience goals.

Ridgway’s roster for the workshop is as follows:

- Preston Neill
- John Clark
- TJ Dlubac
- Joanne Fagan
- Tanya Ishikawa

The workshop, which will take place October 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup> in Grand Junction, offers each participating team the time to collaborate and focus on the water resource challenges that are influencing each community’s growth and development. The program is comprised of the following elements:

- Team-Oriented Work Sessions
- Learning Best Practices
- Peer-to-Peer Networking

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

#### **Love Your Gorge**

Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by City of Ouray and Alpine Bank. [More information.](#)

#### **The Next 10 Years of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed**

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Ouray Community Center. The whole community is invited to this event to learn about UWP’s history, goals and plans while giving input about future projects and activities. Funded by Telluride Foundation and CDPHE Non-Point Source Program. [More information.](#)



### **Cheatgrass Treatment Workshop**

Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ouray County Event Center. A free event including dinner and helpful information for property owners with large landscapes. Sponsored by the Bird Conservancy. Hosted by Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Shavano Conservation District.

### **UWP 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for time, location and other information.

Please take the [community survey](#) about UWP and the watershed's future. Draft strategic plan survey will be available in October.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

#### **Decker Room Programming**

The Decker Community Room is beginning to serve as a real asset to the arts community in the region. We have had several successful community art exhibitions and our first duo show this month. Below is a listing of current and upcoming exhibitions. The space is also increasingly utilized for community events and meetings.

The Community Initiatives Facilitator and several volunteers maintain regular administrative and gallery hours, currently Tuesday - Friday 10AM – 2PM.

#### **Currently exhibiting in the Decker Community Room**

Through October 31: Ed Werner and Henrik Haaland. A potent, interactive 3-D exhibition titled the "End of Literacy" by Werner paired with masterful single wood block prints by Haaland.

#### **Upcoming exhibitions**

- November 10 – November 21: Ridgway Independent Film Festival: The Ridgway Independent Film Festival presents a selection of films from around the world, paired with paintings by Emma Kalff. Curated by Melissa McChristian and Arielle Bielak, we invite you enjoy the interplay between moving images and paintings. Delightful, haunting, and lush imagery dripping from the screens plays magically with the gripping solace of Kalff's work. The 26 selected films from our Festival Shorts Programs will also be on exhibition to watch until November 21. Opening reception Friday November 10th at 4PM- Please join us!
- NOV 24-25-26 10 PM - 6 – PM - RIDGWAY ARTS GROUP HOLIDAY SALE - Andy Nasisse, Betsy Baier, Bruce Backer, Emma Kalff, Gary Ratcliff, Jill Ridders, Vanessa



Backer: Ceramics, Weaving, Sculpture, Painting, Landscape Photography, Jewelry, Metals.

- November 30th: Dark Sky seminar and screening of *Defending the Dark*. (Tentative)
- December 1-2: 20th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale
- December 5 – February 4: Ouray County Art Show

The ArtSpace Gallery is also actively being curated by Space to Create resident, Christen McCabe of West End Design, LLC. Visitors can access the exhibition via the Decker Room during gallery hours. The ArtSpace Gallery has a [page on the FUSE website](#).

Other Space to Create residents are creating programming in the Decker Room. [E-RYT500 experienced yoga teacher, Anandamayi Carol](#) offers weekly yoga classes. Film professor, Dylan Howell is developing a plan for regular film screenings in the Decker starting in 2024.

Ridgway Independent Film Festival (RIFF) committee has selected its 2023 films! [See full Ridgway Independent Film Festival line up here!](#) Winning RIFF Poster design by Melissa McChristian attached. Any thanks to Festival Director, Arielle Bielak for her leadership and to the dedicated volunteers including Joan Chismire, John Clark and others who have curated the film selection. The addition of a third day and an accompanying art exhibition is exciting.

A challenge with programming the space is having the staff capacity to manage the room rentals and administrative hours, curation and programming, while also keeping up with other CIF duties. Staff is currently exploring the possibility of contracting with a gallery coordinator to assist with curation and programming. The staff is also exploring software solutions to help streamline and improve room rentals. Details below.

## Equipping the Decker Room

### AV Equipment

FUSE has sourced an audio-visual system for the Decker Community Room. AV Experts out of Grand Junction provided a quote, which was authorized by Manager Neill after consultation with Councilperson Thomas, Mayor John Clark and volunteers Clifford Pastor and Dylan Howell. The total quote is for \$35,174.90. The timeline for completion is November 1, in time for the Ridgway Independent Film Festival. Many thanks to FUSE volunteer, Clifford Pastor for his role in sourcing the AV equipment.

FUSE Chairperson Arielle Bielak is serving as the Director of the Ridgway Independent Film Festival, which will add a third day, and include a day of screening and an accompanying art and video exhibition at the Decker Room. Arielle is working with the CIF to equip the



space with video equipment so visitors can interact with films via small screens and headphones in a gallery setting. Many thanks to Arielle and her spouse for a generous donation of flat screens for small video screening.

### **Access Management Software and Hardware**

The Community Initiatives Facilitator has invited a quote from Josh Freed, CEO of the Ridgway-based Proximity Space for a software and hardware system to manage access to the Decker Room, enabling individualized keyless entry, remote door locking/unlocking, integrated paperless payment system, event RSVPs and ticket sales, usage reports and documentation of who has accessed the space and when. Josh reports that Proximity Space is currently working with the City of Montrose who has chosen to utilize the Proximity Space system for managing all its municipal facilities.

### **Rolling Bar**

FUSE is seeking bids from local crafts people to complete a custom bar-height table on casters to serve as a gathering space, food or beverage service and storage space for the room. Thanks to FUSE volunteers Clifford Pastor and Vanessa Backer for soliciting bids.

### **Staff Update**

Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator, attended the kickoff weekend for the Boettcher Foundation Doers and Difference Makers Fellowship September 15 – 17 in Denver. The fellowship will include monthly leadership training, three in-person leadership training retreats, monthly peer leadership development calls, individual coaching and individual professional development funding.

### **Winning 2023 RIFF Poster Design by Melissa McChristian**





### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – October 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Budget Retreat** – October 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting** – October 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – October 31, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – November 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting** – November 7, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – November 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

Son: “Dad, I’m cold.”

Dad: “Go stand in the corner. I hear it’s 90 degrees there.”

Bonus Joke:

Did you know that a piranha can devour a small child down to the bone in less than 30 seconds?

Anyways, I lost my job at the aquarium today...